

Gulf of Aqaba tremor shakes southern Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.1 shook southern Israel Tuesday, but there were no reports of damage or injury. The tremor came a month after a stronger quake left eight dead in Jordan, Egypt and Israel. The Institute for Petroleum Research and Geophysics said Tuesday's quake was centred in the Gulf of Aqaba, about 100 kilometres south of the Red Sea resort of Eilat. Residents of the Negev desert town of Beer Sheba said the quake struck at 8:22 a.m. (0622 GMT) and shook walls and windows.

JordanTimes

An independent Arab political daily
عن المؤسسة الصحفية لجريدة الراي



Kuwait agrees in principle to renew ties with Jordan

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwaiti government has "agreed in principle" to restore relations with Jordan, sources since Iraq's invasion of the oil-rich emirate in 1990, newspapers cited the country's foreign minister said Tuesday. "There is an accord within the cabinet on the principle of restoring relations with Jordan" which have remained frozen since Amman was accused of backing Baghdad, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the foreign minister, said. He added there were differences over the "most appropriate manner" in which to resume ties. On December 18, Sheikh Jaber presented his resignation following a dispute with crown prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdallah Al Sabah, who accused him of announcing that relations would soon be restored. But he withdrew his resignation the same day after the intervention of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah. Jordan has repeatedly called on Gulf Arab states to restore ties, and has made progress in healing the rift with Saudi Arabia, which in August named its first ambassador to Amman in five years, after a visit to Riyadh by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

Volume 21 Number 6108

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1995, SHA'BAN 5, 1416

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King, Mubarak hold talks in Aqaba

Jordan, Egypt committed to safeguarding unity of Iraq 'It is up to Iraqis to decide future'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AQABA — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding the territorial integrity of Iraq and to working towards ending the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Talking to journalists after about four hours of talks they held during a short visit Mr. Mubarak paid to the Kingdom, the two leaders also said that it was up to the Iraqi people to determine their future and choose the proper solution to their internal problems.

"We have the same feeling

towards the suffering of (the Iraqi people). We are all committed to the unity of Iraq," said King Hussein who stressed that the Iraqi people should have the ability to determine their own future.

President Mubarak told reporters that "there is no difference in our ideas and approaches concerning Iraq ... we both support the territorial integrity of Iraq and we both want to work towards ending the suffering of the Iraqi people."

"There is no difference between me and His Majesty King Hussein in this regard," Mr. Mubarak said after the talks with King Hussein which were attended by His Royal Highness Crown

Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa as well as other Jordanian and Egyptian officials.

King Hussein reassured that the idea of federation among the three components of the Iraqi society was brought forward only as one of the options that the Iraqis can consider in the future, adding that "it is up to the Iraqis to decide on this."

"Our duty is to help the Iraqis save their country" and to call on representatives of the Iraqi society to cooperate in that endeavour and to assure the Iraqis that "a bloodbath in Iraq will not

happen," the King said in a meeting that he and Mr. Mubarak held with chief editors of Jordanian and Egyptian newspapers.

Warning that division of Iraq would entail harm for all countries of the region the King said: "We are worried about the situation in Iraq. Division occurred when its leadership decided to carry out a referendum" in which segments of the Iraqi society were excluded.

In addition to Iraq, King Hussein and President Mubarak said they also discussed the Syrian track of the peace process, inter-Arab relations and bilateral ties.

(Continued on page 7)



His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak talk to journalists after holding talks at the Royal Palace in Aqaba (photo by Boghos)

Syria, Israel resume talks in U.S. today

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres said he expected results to emerge from the first talks with Syria in six months beginning in the U.S. today.

"We do have expectations of the negotiations this time from the Syrians," Mr. Peres told the Japanese television network NHK, according to his spokeswoman Aliza Gorel on Tuesday.

"Perhaps not the substance, but the atmosphere from Damascus is positive," she quoted him as saying.

Israel has been surprised by the upbeat tone of its arch-foe since the more dovish Peres succeeded slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in November. Negotiators will meet for three days in rural Maryland near Washington.

"We hope that this round will be better than the previous ones. There is a new atmosphere and we have big hopes. We look forward to progress," a senior Syrian official said on Tuesday.

He said Syria was ready to discuss all points with an open mind in the meetings starting near Washington on Wednesday.

"Syria is ready to discuss any ideas from the Israelis if these do not harm our sovereignty, dignity and independence and if these ideas will lead to full withdrawal from our occupied lands," he said.

Israel and Syria have negotiated off and on since 1991 but are deadlocked over

the fate of the Golan Heights captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, security arrangements and future ties.

The talks broke off in June. Syrian officials said Damascus had strongly rejected an Israeli demand to set up an early warning ground station in the Golan.

Israel wants Syria to commit to diplomatic relations, open borders and trade before the Jewish state will say how far it is willing to pull back. Syria insists on a full withdrawal.

Both sides have demonstrated a resolve to make headway since Mr. Rabin's assassination on Nov. 4 by Yigal Amir, a right-wing Jew opposed to handing land to Arabs.

Mr. Peres' coalition defeated two no-confidence motions in Israel's parliament on Monday against returning the Golan Heights for peace with Syria. The vote was 56-48.

But opinion polls show more than half of all Israelis oppose giving up the Golan, many of them viewing the Heights as a strategic necessity and doubting Syria's sincerity about wanting peace.

Israeli leaders had welcomed Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's remarks made in Cairo on Saturday in which he said the new Israeli premier wanted peace with more openness. Syria also welcomed Mr. Peres' hints about withdrawal from the Golan. The Syrian delegation consisted of Walid Al Mualem, Syria's ambassador

to Washington and Michael Wahbi, director of foreign minister Farouq Al Sharara's office.

Mowafak Al Alaf, Syria's chief peace negotiator, has led the team to become an assistant secretary-general of the Cairo-based Arab League.

Meanwhile Israel's minister of agriculture said on Tuesday that the Jewish state could make no concessions on water it gets from the Golan Heights.

Minister Yaacov Tsur made the comment during a visit to northern Israel just a day ahead of the resumption of peace talks.

"The water from the Golan Heights... about 200 to 300 million cubic metres, is a critical, vital, I'd even say fateful like nothing else issue for the State of Israel's future," Mr. Tsur said.

I don't know of any replacement for this water and therefore the state of Israel has to take a very, very firm stand that no unilateral change occurs — because we are not dealing here with any issue resulting from the six day (1967) war," he told Israel's army radio.

The strategic plateau overlooking northern Israel is a key water-gathering region in the parched Middle East. It is the site of the headwaters of the Jordan River.

Israel says tributaries flowing from the Golan into the Sea of Galilee, Israel's largest reservoir, provide 30 per cent of its needs.

Israel withdraws from around Hebron

DAHARIYA, West Bank (AP) — Hundreds of Palestinian troops took up positions in villages around Hebron early Tuesday as the PLO took over local policing duties in one of the most restive areas of the West Bank.

Israel formally turned over the limited control in the cluster of villages with a brief handshake between Israel's Hebron army commander, Col. Gadi Shamir, and Palestinian police commander Brig. Gen. Abdur Raheem.

Rejoicing villagers strung Palestinian flags of red, green, black and white along the entrance to the area prison and presented departing Israeli guards with coffee and cola as a goodbye gift. They were asked to drink some themselves first.

Khalil Abu Alehyan, 45, an unemployed labourer, said the arrival of the PLO police reflected hopes for future full independence.

"They are our symbol for the future," he said.

In all, about 300 PLO police took up positions through the night and early morning hours in Dahariya, Duraha, Baniyamin, Nubali and Yata.

Although Hebron itself is considered a centre of support for Mr. Arafat's Islamic fundamentalist opposition, in the villages support for his mainstream Fatah faction is strong.

Inside the headquarters, Mohammad Hassan, 35, stood outside a small room used by the Israelis as an interrogation cell.

Mr. Hassan was questioned in the room for 11 days in 1988. He also spent 18 months in Israeli jail over the years 1988-1990 for mem-

bership in the then outlawed PLO Fatah faction.

"I never dreamed that one day Palestinians would be in control," Mr. Hassan said. "Now we can feel safe and secure and we are very happy with the Palestinian police here."

Rejoicing villagers strung Palestinian flags of red, green, black and white along the entrance to the area prison and presented departing Israeli guards with coffee and cola as a goodbye gift. They were asked to drink some themselves first.

Khalil Abu Alehyan, 45, an unemployed labourer, said the arrival of the PLO police reflected hopes for future full independence.

"They are our symbol for the future," he said.

In all, about 300 PLO police took up positions through the night and early morning hours in Dahariya, Duraha, Baniyamin, Nubali and Yata.

Although Hebron itself is considered a centre of support for Mr. Arafat's Islamic fundamentalist opposition, in the villages support for his mainstream Fatah faction is strong.

Still, Dahariya was the home of a man who blew himself up on a bus in Jerusalem in August, killing five Israelis. And Yata, long

ago, was the scene of a massacre by the Israeli army.

For her part, Ms. Ciller, leader of the centre-right True Path Party, said, "we consider positively a coalition government with the Motherland Party. A government which will successfully handle all domestic and foreign issues is being sought."

Both Ms. Ciller and Mr. Yilmaz had been under intense pressure from certain sectors to bury their differences and block the governmental aspirations of the Welfare Party which came top of the polls, but fell short of an absolute majority.

Earlier Tuesday, Necmettin Erbakan, the Welfare Party chief, said he was ready to form a coalition with any party.

Mr. Erbakan, whose party won 158 seats out of 550 in Sunday's vote — 118 short of an overall majority — urged other parties to "stop quarrelling and force themselves to serve the people as well as possible."

True Path won 135 seats and The Motherland Party 132 seats.

Only Two other parties managed to win ten per cent of votes, the barrier required to enter parliament. These were the Democratic left party with 75 seats and the Republican People's party with 50.

All four secular parties rejected forming a coalition with the Welfare Party.

The two conservative parties are a tantalising nine seats short of an absolute majority, and will need the support of smaller left-leaning parties to keep Welfare out of government.

Ms. Ciller and Mr. Yilmaz did not specify whether it was planned that at least one of the left-wing parties would be included in the coalition or would support a minority government. However, they said talks would continue.

They added that the leaders of the two smaller left-

parties had "a constructive approach" to the formation of a new government.

Motherland leader Yilmaz had what he called "fruitful" talks on Tuesday with Bulent Ecevit, leader of the Democratic left party, and added that it was "imperative" for parties in general to come together.

Ms. Ciller, meanwhile, had a telephone conversation with Deniz Baykal, leader of the Social Democratic Republic People's Party.

Analysts had said the biggest obstacle to True Path-Motherland coalition was the intense personal hostility between Ms. Ciller and Yilmaz, who traded harsh insults during the election campaign, accusing each other of corruption and incompetence.

But on Tuesday, there

appeared to be a warm atmosphere between Ms. Ciller and Yilmaz, although it was unclear who would head any coalition they brokered.

Some commentators suggested a solution to the dilemma of who would be the rightfull leader of a coalition, would be to nominate a third person, but there were no obvious candidates for that role.

Traditionally, the president appoints the leader of

the coalition.

(Continued on page 7)

Peres says no change in Israel's nuclear policy



Shimon Peres

HAIFA, Israel (AFP) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres denied on Tuesday any change in Israel's nuclear policy after indicating last week that the Jewish state would give up its "nuclear" option in exchange for an overall Middle East peace.

"We have repeated a thousand times that negotiations on a treaty banning non-conventional weapons, including chemical, nuclear and biological, could not be reached until a global peace had been established in the region," Mr. Peres said.

"This global peace must include all Arab countries in the region, including Iraq and Libya, as well as Iran," Mr. Peres said during a visit to a school in the northern Israeli town of Haifa.

On Friday, Mr. Peres said: "Give us peace and we will give up the nuclear (option). If there is peace, we could denuclearise the Middle East."

But he refused to say if

Israel faced

Palestinian council enlarged to 89 seats

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — In a nod to the Palestinians, Israel has agreed to a request by Yasser Arafat to enlarge the Palestinian self-rule council from 83 to 89 seats, officials from both sides said Tuesday.

Seven hundred candidates are competing for the council in the Jan. 20 elections. Palestinian election officials said Tuesday, citing the preliminary roster of candidates. Of those, 289 are from the Gaza Strip and the rest from the West Bank.

Palestinians also have a second vote for president of the Palestinian authority. Mr. Arafat is the leading candidate for the job.

His only challenger, 72-year-old social activist Samia Khalil, opened her campaign Tuesday with a scathing attack on the Israeli-PLO peace agreements.

She said the accords "failed to realise the most important goals of our people which are full sovereignty over our land and the transition from occupation to independence."

Asked about an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war, he said: "The problem is not if we will come down from the Golan, but if we obtain

nian authority.

The size of the council small, saying a bigger assembly would become a de facto Palestinian parliament, an attribute of statehood. In the end, Israel relented, in exchange for Palestinian concessions on security issues.

Israel wanted to keep the size of the council small, saying a bigger assembly would become a de facto Palestinian parliament, an attribute of statehood. In the end, Israel relented, in exchange for Palestinian concessions on security issues.

The Israel-PLO autonomy agreement stipulated that the council should have 82 members. One seat was added to accommodate the Samaritans, a sect that broke off from Judaism 2,800 years ago and is based both in Israel and the West Bank.

Shlomo Dror, spokesman for Israel's outgoing military government, said Tuesday that Israel has agreed to a request by Mr. Arafat to add six more seats, bringing the total to 89. One of those seats is reserved for the elected president.

Osama Abu Safiyyeh, spokesman of the central elections commission, in Gaza City confirmed that the request was granted.

Fariz to succeed Nabulsi as CBJ chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — A decision has been taken by the Cabinet this week to appoint Ziyad Fariz as the new governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to replace Mohammad Said Nabulsi, who resigned early this month. An official announcement has not been made, however, until a Royal Decree is issued to confirm the appointment, an informed source close to the prime ministry has said. According to the source, the choice has been narrowed down between Dr. Fariz and Michel Marto, the CBJ deputy governor, but Dr. Fariz was finally selected to the post.

Dr. Nabulsi, born in Salt in 1943, obtained his masters and doctorate degrees from Keel University in Britain. He started his career as an economic researcher at the Central Bank before becoming the bank's director of studies and research between 1980 and 1982. In 1984, he was appointed secretary-general of the Ministry of Planning until 1989 when he was chosen as minister of industry and trade and afterwards he served as minister of planning.

In another move, Dr. Marto has submitted his resignation from the post of deputy governor after holding it since 1979.

In another

France pledges troops to UAE if threatened

DUBAI (R) — France has pledged to rush tens of thousands of troops and hundreds of aircraft to defend the United Arab Emirates (UAE) if threatened, Gulf Arab sources said Tuesday.

A senior military source told Reuters Paris pledged to rush up to 70,000 troops of a rapid reaction force, despatch up to 120 jet fighters, 200 helicopters and other maritime, transport and electronic warfare aircraft to the region to defend the oil-rich UAE if attacked.

The pledge, a follow up to a January 1995 defence accord, was made in a military pact signed last week in Paris. It details steps France is willing to take to safeguard the UAE's stability and security.

The French defence ministry gave no details of the accord, and a spokeswoman said last week no additional details were immediately available for public release.

"The first accord was broad based, this is a detailed military pact dealing with threats — internal and external," said the military source, who is familiar with the pact.

The UAE is seeking joint defence arrangements — seen as extra defensive capabilities at Abu Dhabi — with several world and regional

powers to deter any potential threats.

The UAE has a defence pact with the United States, details of which are yet to be worked out. It is currently involved in advanced talks with Britain to forge a similar agreement.

UAE officials say the deal with France is the firmest commitment by a world power to Abu Dhabi's security.

"The five other Gulf Arab

states have also pledged to send 30,000 troops to the rescue if sparsely-populated

UAE is attacked, military

sources said.

The UAE does not publicly call non-Arab Iran a potential threat but they express concern over its rearmament programme, including the deployment of submarines, and war-like statements.

"When we raise the voice of peace, Iran raises the voice of war and threats," UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi said this month in reference to repeated failures to sit down to discuss a dispute over three strategic Gulf islands.

It terms Iran's presence on the islands as "occupation."

The latest pact with France includes undisclosed measures to confront potential internal threats. Some 75 per cent of the UAE's 2.2 million

powers are expatriates including a large Iranian community.

Abu Dhabi, which has no false illusions about its limited military might despite an active arms procurement programme, is especially concerned with the illegal presence in the UAE of up to 52,000 Iranians.

"Some of them could be a threat to the internal front if the UAE is involved in an external conflict... the UAE can't fight two wars at the same time," said the source.

In October, visiting Defence Minister Charles Millon told UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Al Sultan Al Nahayan "that he can depend on France's word and pledge."

"When it signs a defence pact with a country, it respects that treaty," he added in reference to France's military intervention in September to foil a coup in the Comoro Islands.

Such treaties also facilitate arms transfer deals with the UAE which already has several weapons purchase accords with France including one in 1993 worth \$3.62 billion for tanks and a \$235 million order in March for helicopters made by the Franco-German Eurocopter.

Press watchdog condemns

Egypt's sentencing of journalists

CAIRO (AFP) — The French watchdog Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF) condemned on Tuesday the sentencing of two Egyptian opposition journalists to two years in prison for slander under a controversial new press law.

The RSF "protests the condemnation of" Abdul Al Baqri, editor in chief of Al Ahali newspaper, and reporter Sarwat Surur the group said in an open letter to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak received by AFP.

It asked Mr. Mubarak "to use his influence to lift the sentences" against the two and that the new law "be revised in a way favouring freedom of the press."

The two were sentenced on Sunday to two years in prison

and given fines of nearly \$15,000 each for a slandering police officer in an article accusing him of influence peddling.

They were the first journalists to be sentenced under the new law passed in May allowing sentence of up to 15 years in prison for slander which provoked outrage from journalists afraid it would muzzle criticism of the state.

Both have requested a new trial before the court in the northern town of Damietta because they were sentenced in their absence. They have not been imprisoned.

RSF urged the president to "eliminate the prison sentences allowed by the new law because they represent a threat to the freedom of journalists to exercise their

rights."

The penalties "considerably restrain the freedom to inform. Insulting a government official is normally only punishable by a strong fine and a prison sentence is not considered," the RSF said.

After the passing of the new law, Mr. Mubarak sought to calm journalists' anger saying it would be "put to sleep," implying it would not be implemented, while a state-formed commission drew up new press legislation.

Journalists, who previously threatened an unprecedented strike to protest the law, decided Sunday to extend a deadline for a new law until March 15 to allow the commission to continue working.

Seminar on promoting pluralistic Arab media to be held in Sanaa

THE FINAL programme of the UN/UNESCO sponsored and organised "Seminar on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Arab Media" scheduled to be held in Sanaa Jan. 7-11, 1995 is now ready.

According to the programme, the seminar will be launched by an opening ceremony in which representatives of the Yemeni government, the U.N. and UNESCO will address the audience. They will be followed by a representative of the Arab media who will give the keynote address, the seminar's first substance speech.

The first working session will start in the afternoon under the theme "The Situation of the Media in the Arab World: The issue of Independence and Pluralism." From there on, the seminar will take the shape of paper presentations in the mornings, and working groups in the afternoons.

Some 150 media personalities representing all the Arab countries and the relevant international organisations will attend the seminar, which will be held at Haddad Hotel. In addition, key and effective international organisations such as Article

XIX, Committee to Protect Journalists, FIEJ, Amnesty International, and others will send representatives.

"The choice of Sanaa as the meeting place for this important media event comes to underline the world community's support for Yemen's efforts in working towards an open and free press. I hope that the Arab media will use this seminar to overcome the obstacles that hamper freedom of the press in the Arab World," said Nejib Fajri head of UNIC and the official spokesman for the seminar.

He also said that the caliber of the participants gives hope that something tangible will come out of this seminar.

The seminar will lead to the Sanaa Declaration which will outline the participants' planned course of action as well as what the U.N. and UNESCO are willing and able to do in support of a free and pluralistic Arab media — Yemen Times.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:30 Inspector Gadget
14:30 Ghost Writer
15:00 Bill Nye the Science Guy
15:30 Amazing Stories
16:00 The Adventures of the Black Stallion
17:00 Sky Tracker
17:00 Jesus
19:00 News in French
19:15 Magazine — Sports Et Musique
19:30 News Headlines
19:30 Anything for a Laugh
20:00 Doc — The Nature of Things
20:25 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:10 Star Trek
22:00 News in English
22:25 Prism
23:00 The Nutcracker — A Fantasy on Ice
00:20 Comedy — Grace Under Fire

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swifte, Tel: 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590,
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
De La Salle Church Tel. 661757
Teresianite Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Assumption Tel.
622341.
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
American Catholic Church Tel.
771351.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261.
St. Sylphine Church Tel. 771571.
Amman International Church Tel.
652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman
Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and skies clear. It will be foggy in the early morning. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy and seas calm. Winds will be

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

northwesterly moderate.

Min./Max. temp.

Dr. Raab Atallah

Khalil pharmacy

Yesterdays' high temperatures:

Amman: 13 Aqaba 22.

Humidity: Amman 30 per cent,

Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMAN:

Dr. Bassam Karadshah

Dr. Mukhlis Halesh

Dr. Muhammed Al Orani

Dr. Abdul Walab Awad

Firdousi pharmacy

Al Asmaa pharmacy

Nairoukh pharmacy

Al Salam pharmacy

Yacoub pharmacy

Shamsiyyah pharmacy

Nairoukhji pharmacy

Najibji pharmacy

Electric Power

IRBD:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and skies

clear. It will be foggy in the early

morning. In Aqaba, it will be partly

cloudy and seas calm. Winds will be

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Al Quds pharmacy

Company

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

86-53200

Prince Hassan to open squash centre today

By a Jordan Times Staff reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's sports facilities will gain a vital addition Wednesday with the opening of the Al Hassan squash centre at Al Hussein Youth City.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will inaugurate the centre which includes six courts, including two centre courts seating 700 and 200 spectators respectively.

Al Hussein Youth City includes the capital's only international soccer stadium as well as the Sports Palace court which hosts volleyball, basketball, handball and other competitions.

Considered to be one of

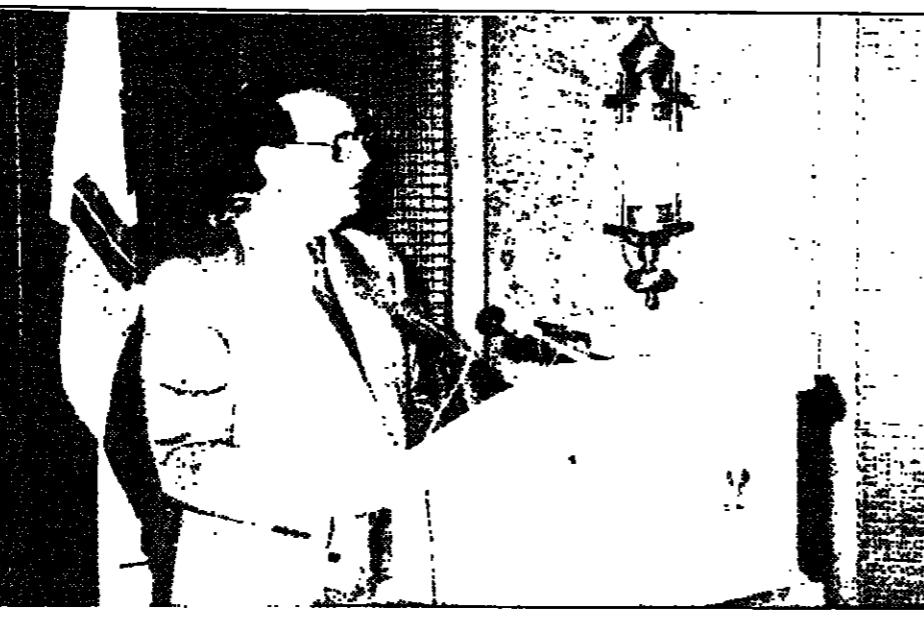
the most highly sophisticated squash centres of the region, the Al Hassan sports centre will soon be hosting the 8th Asian squash championship which opens in Amman Jan. 8.

Thirteen Asian nations will be converging on Amman starting Jan. 6 to take part in the competition. The teams represent Bahrain, Hong Kong, India, South Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Taiwan, and Jordan.

During the 10-day long championship, the General Assembly of the Asian Squash Federation will hold its meetings in Amman.



Seminar reviews municipal councils' role in development of tourism



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker Monday addresses the opening of a three-day symposium on municipal councils roles in community development (Petra photo)

AQABA (Petra) — Participants in the three-day symposium on the role of municipal councils in local development Tuesday discussed two working papers on tourism promotion and the development of national and cultural responsibility.

The symposium was opened Monday by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker who stressed his government's interest in activating the role of municipal councils in community development.

Addressing the opening session, Sharif Zeid emphasised the importance of community participation in the development process.

He called on the municipal councils to work as one team and to maintain the councils' integrity and objectivity and to work towards serving the public interest rather than narrow personal interests.

Promoting tourism cannot be achieved in isolation from local administrations and non-governmental organisations at the national and sub-national levels, Minister of Tourism Abdul Lah Khatib said in the pre-

servation of his working paper.

Mr. Khatib said tourism has become an extremely important sector in the world economy, noting that the number of world tourists totalled 537 million last year, yielding some \$341 billion in profit.

He pointed out that the tourism market represents more than 8 per cent of world exports, and that it even exceeds oil exports which represent almost 6.5 percent of world exports.

The Arab region occupies only 2 per cent of the total world tourism market, according to the minister.

Mr. Khatib called on municipal councils to preserve Jordan's unique tourist and archeological attractions, and to save them from alterations caused by organisation planning.

Although the winner, a former minister of higher education, did not apply to the competition, he said that someone must have nominated him.

He added he had no knowledge who that person was.

The council supervising the award, which has a capital of \$ 6.8 million, and is named after a businessman who was also a poet, will distribute \$500,000 among the five winners.

This year's prize, which is given out to promote Arabic culture, was awarded to Abdul Wahab Bayati from Iraq, who received the poetry prize, Edward Kharrar from Egypt, who received the novel and drama prize, Awatef Abdul Rahman and Muhammed Ramahi from Egypt and Iraq respectively shared the social sciences prize.

In 1982 Dr. Assad won the King Faisal Global Award for Arabic literature.

As for this year's award, Dr. Assad told the Jordan Times he will spend the prize money of \$100,000 on further research.

He added that the ministry has made arrangements for hospitalised students or those serving prison terms, to take the examinations at a special centre set up for this purpose.

He also said that an examination hall was opened in Tunis for Jordanian students living there, who wish to sit for the exams.

Mr. Salem said 27 blind students, who will dictate their answers to examiners, are also taking the exams.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Ghazi attends JUST ceremony

RAMTHA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein's Cultural Advisor Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad Tuesday attended a special ceremony held at Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) to honour the university's outgoing president Kamel Ajlouni, who has been at the helm of the university for nearly nine years. The university's President Sa'ad Hijazi praised Dr. Ajlouni's leadership and reviewed achievements made ever since he took over in 1986. Dr. Ajlouni spoke of the continuous support of HRH Crown Prince Hassan. The ceremony was attended by presidents of the various Jordanian universities, deans of faculties and Ramtha's district governor.

Satellite manufacture tenders to be launched

AMMAN (Petra) — Telecommunications Corporation Director General Walid Dweik Tuesday returned home from Rabat where he took part in the 76th session of the Arab Satellite Corporation (ARABSAT) Board of Directors, held there Dec. 18 to 24. Taking part in the meetings were representatives for Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Libya, Syria, Morocco and Egypt. In an arrival statement Mr. Dweik said the board authorised ARABSAT's executive office to invite tenders for the manufacture of the third satellite of the second generation utilising findings of a consultancy study on feasibility of the new generation of Arab satellites. He said the first satellite of the second generation will be launched by mid-1996, the second in early January 1997. Mr. Dweik said the board also approved a regulation for imposing tariffs on telephone and TV services provided by ARABSAT.

Ministry proposes law on placement of children of 'unfit' parents

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Social Development is proposing a new law that would grant the government the right to place an "abused" child with a foster family only after the court of law decides that the child's parents or legal guardians were "unfit" to care for him/her.

The law, drafted by the ministry, along with human rights activists, specialists in child education, and non-governmental organisations, does not clearly define what is meant by an "abused" child or an "unfit" parent.

Nevertheless, the draft law expands the role of the

Higher Council for the Children to allow "abused" children or citizens aware of cases of neglect or abuse towards children to report these cases to the council.

After a court decision that the child's parents or guardians are unfit to take care of him/her, the government will then place the child with a foster family, which, by criteria, should be Jordanian and childless, and with certain social and educational "standards," or may decide to place the child in a welfare institution.

Lawyer and human rights activist Asma Khader, who participated in drawing up the draft, said as long as the guardian (parent) has the right to discipline his/her

child, the application of the law will largely depend on its interpretation by the judges.

Existing laws give the guardian or parent the right of discipline, which includes corporal punishment.

"What one judge considers abuse another might find only a form of discipline," Ms. Khader said, explaining that bruises found on a child could be "interpreted as part of that right."

According to Ms. Khader, articles in the draft law are not legally binding. They are closer to being "recommendations than laws," she said.

As an example, she pointed to articles in the draft

law that state that children have the right to invest their time in useful activities, such as sports and cultural events, and that children have a right to self-expression, saying these types of articles were "not precise nor concise enough to protect children's rights."

Ms. Khader also criticised the draft law as lacking in legal technicalities.

Some of the articles of the draft law are based on the International Charter for the Child's Rights, which Jordan is a signatory of, along with other countries.

For this draft law to be adopted, the Cabinet, then Parliament, have to endorse it.

Man receives three-month prison term for 'honour' killing

By Rana Husseini
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A 22-year-old man was sentenced Tuesday to three-months imprisonment by the Criminal Court for the murder of his 17-year-old sister in a crime of honour on July 27.

Ibrahim Musa, who was charged with the premeditated murder of his 17-year-old married sister Fathieh, first received six months but the sentence was reduced to three months because his family dropped charges.

The court also amended the premeditated murder charges against the defendant to third degree murder because the court said Mr. Musa committed the crime in a fit of fury to "cleanse his family's honour."

According to court documents, Fathieh had extra-marital relationships, and on the night before the incident she left her house at 1:30 a.m. in Abu Sabah village to meet her lover.

The document said that Fathieh's brother found his sister at her uncle's house, where she had sought refuge after learning that her "escape" had been discovered.

When Fathieh told her brother of the story he drew a gun and shot her once in

the head, then turned himself in to police," the document said.

Also Tuesday, the Criminal Court heard the testimony of the father of a 32-year-old woman, Muna M., who was killed Aug. 12.

According to court documents, Muna had helped a man rape the suspect's girlfriend in a brothel the day before the murder. Khalid, 27, allegedly killed Muna to avenge the alleged rape of his girlfriend.

Turki Ali Khizai, 50, told the court that his daughter Muna had run away from home five years ago to marry the man she loved.

"I never heard anything concerning my daughter for five years until the police informed me that my daughter (the victim) was found dead in Amman National Park," Mr. Khizai told the court.

The decomposing body of Muna M. was found two weeks after the murder in the park with one bullet to the head and several stab wounds to the chest, according to court documents. Parts of the murder victim's body were mutilated.

Presiding Judge Abdul Rahim Tawfiq set Jan. 11 to continue hearing the case.

Meanwhile, the Criminal

Court Monday acquitted a 48-year-old man of the double murder charges of a woman and her six-month-old baby in Shmeisani March 27.

The court discharged Majid Sabayleh because there was no strong evidence to indict or link him with the murder. In addition, the court said, it relied on one of the 23 witnesses who testified that the suspect was at a coffee shop at the time the murder was committed.

The bodies of Maha and her son, Samer, were found in an apartment which the suspect had rented in Shmeisani.

According to court documents, the murder victim, a mother of five children who was married to a man in Irbid, eloped from her home in 1992 and was since reported missing by her husband.

The documents added that the woman had several extra-marital affairs including her affair with Mr. Sabayleh whom she was living with. The baby, who was also found murdered in the apartment, was the son of Mr. Sabayleh.

Mr. Sabayleh, however, was sentenced to one-year for committing adultery.

Health official points to shortage in medical equipment, personnel

By Samir Hijawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The director of the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) department at the Ministry of Health, Usama Badran, Thursday said that the increase in the number of health centres around the country was not being matched with a proportionate increase in the number of nursing and medical cadres, midwives and medical equipment.

Dr. Badran pointed to a shortage in medical and nursing cadres, ultrasound equipment, dental clinics and medicines.

He noted, however, an increase in the number of people visiting the ministry's health centres, where they receive free medical services.

Poverty, low income and high cost of treatment at private sector health facilities are behind the high

turnout at the ministry's health facilities, Dr. Badran said.

A total of 49,092 children benefited from health services provided by these centres in 1994, as compared to 15,000 children in 1976, according to Dr. Badran.

He revealed that 96 per cent of all children under one are immunised against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus (DPT) and polio, and 92 per cent against measles.

Dr. Badran said that vaccines were given to all children free of charge through 278 maternal and child health centres spread throughout the country.

He added that these health centres provide vaccine services and advice on nutrition, in addition to diagnosis of early childhood disability.

Another medical officer, Abdul Rahim Jalal, said

health centres face great pressure due to the high turnout of patients seeking medical treatment. He said, the centres are not sufficiently manned to properly meet the high demand.

"Despite this," Dr. Jalal said, "we spare no effort to serve our patients, particularly in relation to the vaccines."

He stressed that the DPT, polio, measles, tuberculosis, and hepatitis B vaccines are given to children free of charge at the ministry's centres, and that the tetanus vaccine is also given free of charge to pregnant women, under the national immunisation programme.

To ensure that all children are medically insured, the Ministry of Health has recently formed a committee to carry out a study to cover around 300,000 under-six-year-olds by a health insurance scheme.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Works by artist Hind Nasser at Darat Al Funun (until Jan. 6).
- * Photography by poet Ibrahim Nasrallah entitled "The Autobiography of an Eye" at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh. (Until Jan. 4.)
- * Photography exhibition "Biblical Itineraries" at the French Cultural Centre. (Until Dec. 30).

MUSIC RECITAL

- * Recital of Eastern music at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Gardens Street at 6.00 p.m.
- * Gifts and crafts by Suha Lallas Kassisieh at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, off Wadi Sagra Street (until Dec. 31).



Moscow's man in Chechenya insists he is legitimate boss

MOSCOW (AFP) — Doku Zavgayev, head of the Moscow-installed government in Chechenya, said Tuesday he was the republic's legitimate elected leader despite a separatist boycott and evidence of fraud during the Russian-organized leadership ballot.

Mr. Zavgayev, who was also Chechenya's former Communist boss under the Soviet Union, told reporters here that "legitimate power has been restored to Chechenya, where 95 per cent of the people voted for the new republican leader."

The elections, held from Dec. 14 to 17, were characterized by widespread fraud and international observers were absent. Mr. Zavgayev was the only major candidate.

There were no electoral lists, and the polls were boycotted by the separatists loyal to independence leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, who was elected president in 1991, and several pro-Russian leaders, who denounced them as unde-

mocratic.

Mr. Zavgayev rejected the accusations of malpractice, arguing that the result was "incontrovertible."

"There were cases of fraud just like anywhere else in the world," Mr. Zavgayev said, adding that "if people voted several times they were themselves to blame."

"This does not cast doubt on the election of the republican leader," he insisted.

Under the electoral law implemented by the Moscow-installed government in the devastated capital Grozny, voters were allowed to cast their ballots in any polling station after showing an identity document.

There was no system to prevent multiple voting.

The Electoral Commission did not explain how it calculated the total number of voters in Chechenya after a year of war in which an estimated 25,000 have died and thousands have been made homeless.

On Monday, Russian

Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov said Moscow could no longer negotiate with the separatists and that Mr. Zavgayev himself should carry out negotiations with the separatists.

Talks between Moscow and the rebels were suspended in October after an assassination attempt which critically wounded General Anatoly Romanov, the former Russian military commander in Chechenya.

Mr. Zavgayev said Tuesday his government was "ready to talk to those who understand that in Chechenya peace is the only solution."

Meanwhile, the federal command of Russian troops in Chechenya denied an earlier statement by military Commander Anatoly Shirkov that 267 civilians were killed during 10 days of fighting in Gudermes.

A statement from the federal command's press service said the general "never spoke" of such a death toll in Chechenya's second biggest town, 30 kilometres

east of the capital Grozny. Local, Russian-installed Chechen officials were compiling a final toll, the statement said.

Gen. Shirkov also said 300 Chechen rebels were killed and 400 injured, while an aide to top Chechen guerrilla Commander Aslan Maskhadov told AFP in Grozny that 700 Russian soldiers had been killed and up to 40 armoured vehicles destroyed in Gudermes.

Both sides regularly exaggerate the losses of their opponents following battles.

Russian forces regained control of Gudermes Monday, after some of the worst fighting seen since a shaky ceasefire came into force at the end of June.

Residents of Gudermes fleeing the violence spoke of at least a hundred civilians killed.

Russian forces stepped in after the rebels launched a surprise assault on the town to coincide with the elections.

Emergency crews search for last 2 bodies from crash of U.S. airliner

BOGOTA (AFP) — Three of the four survivors of last week's American Airlines crash in Colombia were upgraded from critical to serious but stable condition Monday as crews searched for two remaining bodies.

Doctor Luis Fernando Castro at Cali University Hospital said two men and a nine-year-old girl were moved out of the intensive care unit, where the fourth survivor, a 21-year-old woman remained despite slow improvement in her condition.

The Boeing 757 passenger plane from Miami, Florida slammed into an Andean Mountain with 164 people on board Wednesday while attempting to land in Cali after it apparently strayed from its flight path.

Separately Monday, a U.S. newspaper attributed the accident to human error.

Unnmed sources told The Washington Post that mistakes made by the pilots or air traffic controllers, or both, caused the crash in which 160 people perished.

Colombian and U.S. technicians inspecting the flight data recorder in Washington told the newspaper they believed human error caused the accident but said it would take months to reach a final conclusion.

"What we clearly have is an operational accident," one source familiar with the investigation said.

Experts at the Washington-based National Transportation Safety Board were deciphering data contained in the flight recorder and were to begin Tuesday piecing together a detailed transcript of all communication between the pilots and the controllers.

The newspaper report said analysts had

ruled out sabotage or mechanical trouble as the cause of the accident.

On the steep and cold mountainside, workers from the Red Cross, civil defence and Colombian police pressed their final push to find the remains of the two people whose remains had not yet been located.

The soldiers began in the early hours Monday to "remove earth and debris, and everything else they come across in that sector in order to locate the four bodies that remain at the site of this fatal accident," Radio Caracol said earlier.

The clean-up operation, still inching forward after five days of battling with rough weather and terrain, was coordinated from the southeastern Colombian town of San Jose, located near Buga where the plane crashed just four in-flight minutes before it was scheduled to land in Cali.

Most of the 16 passengers on Flight 965 were Colombians returning home for Christmas.

Sources quoted by the Post said mistakes were made as the plane drifted down a dark valley between high mountains in its attempt to land.

There could have been miscommunication between the U.S. crew and Colombian air traffic controllers because of language problems, the report said.

All traffic control communications are supposed to be in English but previous crashes have resulted from language troubles.

American Airlines Saturday warned its pilots not to accept clearances not on their flight plans, the report said.

Burmese junta cracking down on political prisoners — opposition

BANGKOK (AFP) — Burma's military rulers have cracked down on political prisoners in an effort to identify the source of reports on prison conditions, an opposition group charged Tuesday.

The All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) said the junta had begun "a very brutal investigation" to find the source of letters from political prisoners sent clandestinely to U.N. official Yozo Yokota.

The letters were sent to Mr. Yokota, the U.N. rapporteur on human rights, for his report on the human rights situation in Burma.

The ABSDF statement alleged that prisoners had been denied water and food during interrogation periods

since mid-November and had been forced to sleep on concrete without mats or blankets.

Permission to meet the detainees at Insein Prison had been refused since mid-November, the statement said, adding that prisoners under interrogation had been kept in "military dog cells."

The junta "would like to find out which prisoners wrote the letters and who helped them to send the letters out of the prison," the ABSDF said.

It held that conditions at Insein Prison were "very bad" and that some prisoners were seriously ill.

According to the ABSDF, the junta planned to "crush the supporters" of opposi-

tion leader Aung San Suu Kyi before moving against her personally.

The junta "is aware of the public relations boost the release of Ms. Suu Kyi has given them, and they will not throw this away by rearresting her immediately," the statement said.

"Instead they will cut off her support base and try to marginalize her," by harassing and arresting her supporters as a first step, it added.

Aung San Suu Kyi was released in July from nearly six years of house arrest. She has been allowed to circulate and address supporters, but recently military authorities have arrested people linked to her.

Indian police raid Golden Temple in search of Sikh leader's assassin

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian police stormed the Golden Temple in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar in an overnight raid to flush out the alleged killer of a top Sikh politician, officials said Tuesday.

The raid on the Sikh religion's holiest shrine was the first major police action there since May 1988 when army commandos shot dead 36 Sikh separatists in a 11-day siege of the complex.

Officials in Amritsar said police entered the Golden Temple in an attempt to

capture the alleged mastermind of the Aug. 31 assassination of Beant Singh, the Sikh chief minister of the northern state of Punjab.

But city police chief S.S. Chana said no arrests were made after a search of the white marble shrine. The raid came three days after three Sikhs separatists were arrested in Punjab for plotting to kill Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Police said two of the "hardcore terrorists" arrested Friday were also involved in the slaying of

Beant Singh, credited with stamping out Sikh militancy through a relentless drive in the state.

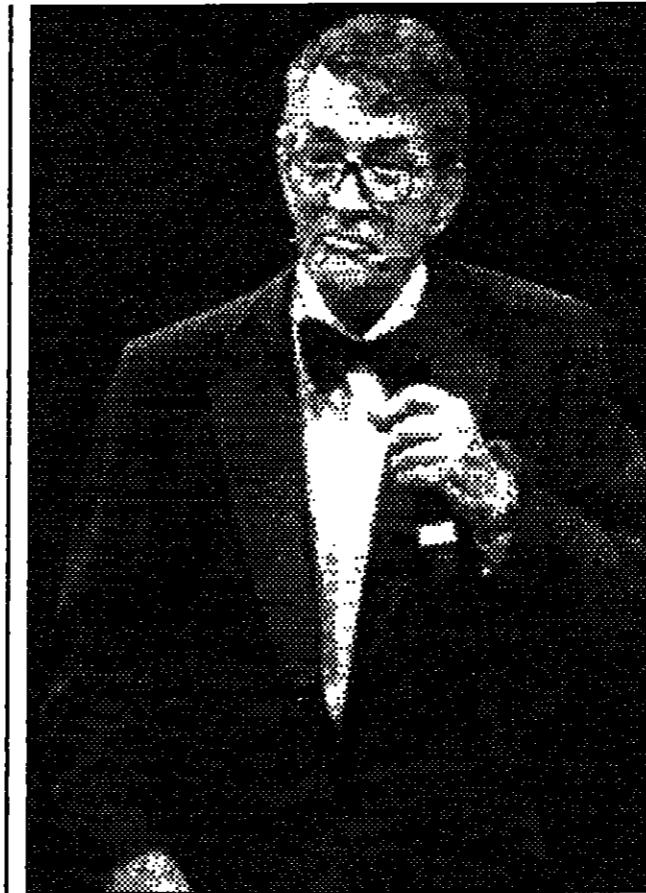
The police say the three suspects were involved in a "Pakistani-aided conspiracy" to assassinate Mr. Rao and the chief minister of adjoining Haryana state, Bhajan Lal.

One of the three suspects, Jagtar Singh Hawara, reportedly told officials their ringleader was staying in the Golden Temple, police said.

Beant Singh, credited with stamping out Sikh militancy through a relentless drive in the state.

The police say the three suspects were involved in a "Pakistani-aided conspiracy" to assassinate Mr. Rao and the chief minister of adjoining Haryana state, Bhajan Lal.

They are keen to see that the election is fully contested and that political stability remains in the interest of economic development."



Dean Martin during performance in 1988 (AFP photo)

Dean Martin dies at 78

LOS ANGELES (AFP) —

Veteran U.S. actor, singer and comedian Dean Martin died at his home Monday of acute respiratory failure, his agent Mort Viner said. He was 78.

Martin was perhaps best known as the straight man in the Martin and Lewis comedy team he starred in for years with Jerry Lewis.

Martin ended that act after 10 years in 1956 and later said that meeting and leaving Lewis were the two major turning points in his career.

"I became a real actor because of those two things," he said.

Born Dino Paul Crocetti in 1917 to an Ohio barber, Martin dropped out of high school after the 10th grade and worked at various odd jobs — including as a gas station attendant and boxer.

He first used the name by which he became famous in 1941 while singing with the Sammy Watkins Band in Cleveland, Ohio.

Martin served briefly in the Army but was discharged with a hernia in 1945. The next year he met Lewis while both were performing in Atlantic City, and the pair soon launched their double act.

Martin made his film debut in 1949 in "My Friend Irma." He made a television debut in 1950 with Lewis, with whom he worked until 1956.

His first solo film after breaking with Lewis, Ten Thousand Bedrooms, was a dismal flop. But subsequent films, such as "The Young Lions" with Montgomery Clift and Marlon Brando, established him as a star in

his own right.

Martin went on to host a solo television programme, The Dean Martin Show, which drew high ratings for its unrehearsed, spontaneous style for most of its eight years on the air from 1965-73.

He was a regular member of the notorious Hollywood "rat pack," a star-studded social club that featured such luminaries as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Peter Lawford.

Martin ended that act after 10 years in 1956 and later said that meeting and leaving Lewis were the two major turning points in his career.

"I became a real actor because of those two things," he said.

Born Dino Paul Crocetti in 1917 to an Ohio barber, Martin dropped out of high school after the 10th grade and worked at various odd jobs — including as a gas station attendant and boxer.

He first used the name by which he became famous in 1941 while singing with the Sammy Watkins Band in Cleveland, Ohio.

Martin served briefly in the Army but was discharged with a hernia in 1945. The next year he met Lewis while both were performing in Atlantic City, and the pair soon launched their double act.

Martin made his film debut in 1949 in "My Friend Irma." He made a television debut in 1950 with Lewis, with whom he worked until 1956.

His only son, actor and pop singer Dean Paul Martin, died in a plane crash in 1987 when his jet crashed near the California Air Force base where he served as a National Guard captain.

Cambodia prepares offensive against Khmer Rouge

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia (AFP) —

Government troops preparing for an expected large-scale offensive against Khmer Rouge guerrillas near this northwest provincial capital said Tuesday they face severe shortages of food, medicine, ammunition and other supplies.

"We do not have enough artillery and we need more ammunition to fight the Khmer Rouge," said Sok Phol, the deputy commander in charge of logistics for Military Region Five, which includes Battambang, Banteay Meanchey and Pursat provinces. Seven new T-55 tanks have been delivered to battalions on the outskirts of Battambang town, but insufficient fuel has arrived to use the tanks, according to one tank commander.

Opposition officials said the latest effort, driven by U.S. Ambassador David Merrill, had yielded no "tangible result."

The diplomat never did propose any formula. Rather he was keen to see that the two sides reached a peaceful solution," Awami Leader Amir Hossain Amu told the Independent newspaper.

Mr. Merrill was present at one of the meetings Mr. Amu had with BNP leaders Shamsul Islam and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at the weekend, the first direct talks between rival leaders in more than a year.

"There was no pressure from the diplomat, they are interested to know how far we have proceeded towards a solution," Mr. Amu said.

"They are keen to see that the election is fully contested and that political stability remains in the interest of economic development."

Military analysts and others familiar with the government's plans expect the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) to begin its offensive by the end of January and push towards the Khmer Rouge economic stronghold of Pailin near the Thai border.

"The build-up for an offensive has definitely begun, but whether the RCAF will be adequately supplied is always unknown," said one analyst. "They have had these problems in the past, but we're aware of concerted efforts to fix them."

As of Tuesday, however, the situation did not appear to have changed. "We are lacking many things," Sok Phol said, noting that many of the 26,000 troops in his region are often receiving only a fifth of normal rice rations. Aid workers in Battambang say they regularly hear stories of soldiers selling their uniforms to villagers to buy food, and commanders acknowledge that they will have difficulties unless the situation is remedied.

"Unless we get more supplies soon, we will not be able to go for Pailin," said one battalion commander.

Boom in Nicaragua as women go without birth control

MANAGUA (AFP) —

Nicaragua has one of the world's fastest-growing populations, 3.7 per cent annually, as at least 53 per cent of women of childbearing age use no family planning method, a UN report released Monday found. The UN Population Fund report said the lack of access to health care services, fear and Roman Catholic religious teachings were factors influencing the grim family planning situation. The overwhelming majority of Nicaraguans belong to the Roman Catholic Church which opposes use of contraceptives. With its soaring growth rate, Nicaragua's maternal death rate in childbirth is seven per 1,000 live births, and its infant mortality rate 52 per 1,000 live births. At least 21 per cent of all births are to mothers younger than 18, according to Nicaraguan Health Ministry data. Back in 1990, officials found that only 25 per cent of childbearing-aged women were using any family planning method, earning it status as a priority country for U.N. Population Fund assistance which set up permanent offices here three years ago.

Standard China 'no threat to dialects'

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese Vice Premier Li Lanqin has denied that the government's efforts to standardise spoken and written Chinese aim to eliminate the country's many dialects.

To disperse "putonghua" or "common speech" in 1955 together with simplified forms of Chinese characters to increase literacy and improve communications between areas with mutually unintelligible dialects. The policy was largely successful, but in the last 15 years China's open-door policy has seen the old system of characters making a comeback, especially with the increasing economic influence of Hong Kong and Taiwan, where the old system is still used. Mr. Li stressed that all publications, trademarks, advertisements and identity cards must use standardised characters.

Tonya Harding weds

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Don't ask where disgraced Olympic skater Tonya Harding is honeymooning. "Do you think I'm stupid?" the skater responded when asked where she and new hubby Michael Smith would spend their post-nuptial holiday. Harding, booted for life from figure-skating competition for her role in a knee-slammimg attack on colleague Nancy Kerrigan, was married Saturday aboard a yacht on a river in Portland, Oregon.

It was the fourth marriage for Smith, 29-year-old machinist. "I'm very happy, and I hope to keep it that way," Harding said.

Prince to part ways with Warner Bros.

WASHINGTON (AFP) — He's called the Artist Formerly Known as Prince

School fire sparks safety concerns in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A blaze which killed more than 400 people at a school party in northern India has sparked concerns about violations of fire safety regulations across the country.

The authorities said they would draw up stricter rules to prevent a repeat of Saturday's disaster at Dabwali. The government of Haryana state, which includes the town, has banned unregulated public functions.

"We should learn a lesson from Dabwali," New Delhi region Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said.

A blazing canopy fell on 2,000 people at an end of year school party in Dabwali, 280 kilometres from New Delhi, sparking a stampede for the single exit.

Some 420 people, mostly children and women, were killed and 600 people were injured. Rescue workers and hospital officials say the death toll may be as high as 600 but the actual figure may never be known.

The fire spread after a spark ignited nylon sheets over the walled auditorium, which was packed with parents and children at the prize-giving for the local Dayanand Arya Vedic school.

Police blamed the fire on an electrical short-circuit and said a number of cooking gas cylinders may have exploded from the heat.

Dozens of children's bodies were charred beyond recognition leading to confusion at hospitals where corpses were brought for identification.

Dabwali authorities have appealed to residents to come forward and help draw up a list of the missing from what has been described as India's worst fire.

'Diana's future role depends on marriage decisions'

LONDON (AFP) — Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said Tuesday that Princess Diana's wish to become a roving ambassador for Britain could only be broached once the question of her divorce from the Prince of Wales had been resolved.

"I think we are at a very delicate moment with regard to the future of the prince and princess," Mr. Rifkind told the BBC in an interview. "I think (the princess' future role) very much depends on the decisions they themselves take with regard to their future."

"Ambassador has both a technical meaning but it also has a more general meaning that is sometimes used of someone who helps advance the interests of the country they belong to," Mr. Rifkind said.

In an interview last month princess Diana said she saw her future role as a goodwill envoy for Britain despite being separated from her husband — Britain's future monarch — and her increasingly strained relations with

the royal family.

He was the first government minister to comment on a possible diplomatic role for the Princess of Wales.

Mr. Rifkind did not comment on the princess' ability to advance British interests, although other cabinet ministers and MPs have already expressed reservations.

Princess Diana's candid interview with the BBC on Nov. 20, in which she admitted committing adultery, triggered fresh speculation over the royal troubled royal marriage. The controversy resurfaced again last week when Queen Elizabeth II suggested the couple divorce.

Meanwhile Two leading Anglican clerics Monday entered the fray around the broken marriage of the Prince of Wales, saying that it was not the church's role to tell him who he could or could not have a personal relationship with.

The Dean of Winchester Cathedral, Trevor Beeson, and Lord Coggan, a former Archbishop of Canterbury,

criticised statements made at the weekend by several of their colleagues, who said that after any divorce from Princess Diana, the Prince should not be seen with his mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles.

"It is for nobody else to tell him who he should have relationships with," said the Reverend Beeson, speaking to local journalists.

"It is not for interfering churchmen to tell him who he should have relationships with. It would be impudent."

He specified however that he was only referring to the present situation, and not suggesting what would be correct if and when Prince Charles succeeded his mother as monarch.

"I think there has been so much talking about this on very inadequate information which is in no way reliable," said Lord Coggan.

"The less we talk and the more we pray the better."

The two churchmen were reacting to statements made to Sunday newspapers by three other Church of

England clerics.

One of them, Alwyn Rice Jones, the Archbishop of Wales said: "If Mrs. Parker Bowles appears in public with the prince after his divorce, she would be taking the part of his consort and I don't think the people would wish to be involved in that arrangement."

Archdeacon of Blackburn, the Venerable David Robinson added: "Irrespective of whether it is a prince or pauper, that sort of relationship outside marriage is absolutely against the teachings of the Church."

And the Dean of St Paul's, the Very Reverend Eric Evans, affirmed: "If the present Princess of Wales were to die then, of course, he would be free to remarry. But there are no other circumstances in which he could continue his relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles."

North releases South Korean fishermen; rice aid may resume

PANMUNJOM, Korea (AFP) — North Korea Tuesday released the five surviving crew of a South Korean fishing trawler detained seven months ago, raising expectations that emergency rice aid could resume to alleviate the North's food crisis.

The remains of three other crew were also released by the North Korean authorities. Two were killed in gunfire during the capture of their vessel, the Usong-86, by the North Korean Navy on May 30. The other died while being held by the Communist North.

The five crew of the trawler that strayed into North Korean water returned to South Korea through the truce village of Panmunjom on the demilitarized zone that divides the two Koreas.

At 0700 GMT, the five wearing overcoats, ties and scarves and carrying identical new grey suitcases walked towards the military demarcation line (MDL), escorted by North Koreans in military and civilian clothing.

As they stepped across the MDL, they turned to face their former captors and called out, waving. "Thank you, we cannot forget your hospitality."

They were followed by three boxes of ashes wrapped in white clothes

which were handed to three representatives of Red Cross waiting on the south side of Panmunjom.

One of the surviving crew, Park Jae-Ryol, 44, replied "No" when asked by journalists if they were harassed in the North.

"We were cared for very well," he said, adding they had been housed in an inn.

The group then rushed to National Unification Board Forward Headquarters inside the demilitarized zone dividing Korea, where relatives of the three dead wept uncontrollably over makeshift stands where the remains were laid.

The survivors were hurried through medical checks, and allowed a few minutes with relatives before being whisked away by a bus for a lengthy debriefing on their time in the North.

The repatriation was the first friendly gesture by North Korea toward the South since rice talks between the two sides broke down in September over the capture, which occurred on May 30.

At the time of the breakdown, the fate of the 86-Usong crew was high on the agenda. Seoul had hoped for their return after it shipped 150,000 tonnes of rice free to Pyongyang to help the isolated Stalinist state overcome a food shortage.

Meanwhile North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il made his first public appearance in more than a month at a performance by a Korean People's Army Concert Troupe choir Sunday, monitored by South Korea and Japan.

Mr. Kim also took part in a photo session Monday with staff and activists from the Kang Kon Military Academy and the Kim Il-Sung Political University on the 50th anniversary of the university's founding, according to a Pyongyang radio report monitored by the South Korean monitor.

Umzindusi River had also come down in flood washing away homes on their banks.

"Many homes have been damaged and destroyed. There is a police helicopter assisting in the search for more bodies. The terrain was inaccessible and the search was being hampered by flood damage," he said.

"Everything possible is being done to help the survivors of the floods."

47 killed, 53 missing in S. African floods

DURBAN, South Africa (R) — At least 47 people were killed and 53 reported missing and feared dead in floods caused by heavy rains in South Africa's volatile KwaZulu-Natal province, police said Tuesday.

"We have picked up 47 bodies so far among the 100 reported missing, we fear they are all dead. We fear the figure could reach 100 by late this afternoon,"

police spokesman Henry Budhrum told Reuters.

KwaZulu-Natal is also scene of bitter internece fighting between Nelson Mandela's ruling African National Congress (ANC) and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party.

Mr. Budhrum told reporters the victims of the floods all lived in Eshowe, black township outside Pietermaritzburg, many

shacks were swept away when a river running through the township flooded Sunday and Monday night.

He said many bodies had been found washed down the Umzindusi River and police were searching the river banks for more victims.

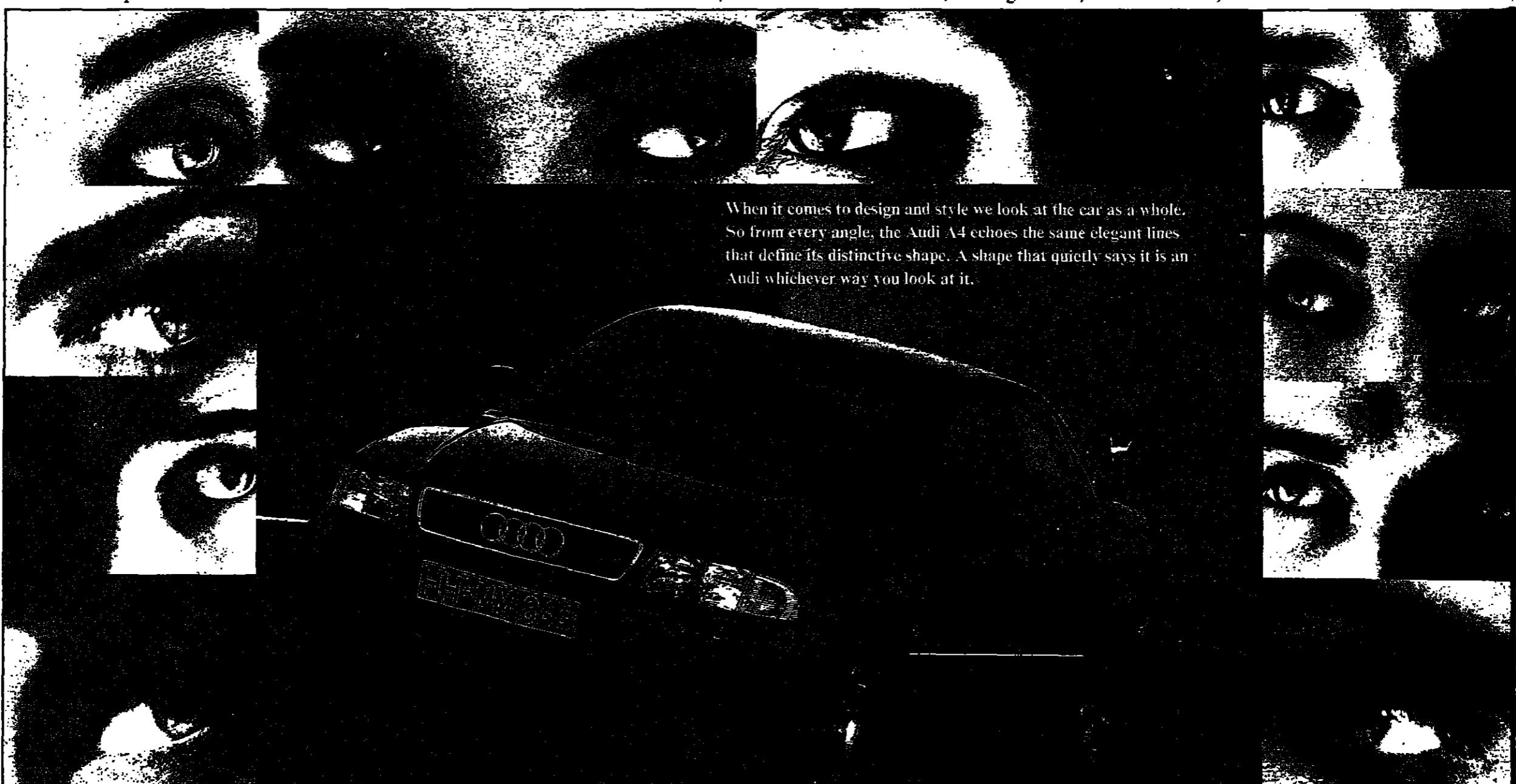
Mr. Budhrum said the death toll could be as high as 100 because small tributaries feeding the

Umzindusi River had also come down in flood washing away homes on their banks.

"Many homes have been damaged and destroyed. There is a police helicopter assisting in the search for more bodies. The terrain was inaccessible and the search was being hampered by flood damage," he said.

"Everything possible is being done to help the survivors of the floods."

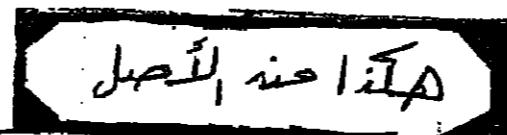
For a test drive please contact MOTOR TRADE COMPANY LTD. on: Marka Industrial Area, Jaafer Iben Abu Taleb Street, Building No. 156, Amman - Jordan, 892855.



There's one disappointing aspect to driving an Audi A4.

When you're on the inside driving it, you can't be on the outside admiring it.

MOTOR TRADE COMPANY LTD.



Advancement through technology



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

Established 1974

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.
Telephones: 684311, 699634
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO.
Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Putting goodwill into action

STATEMENTS MADE by His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday on the two leaders' stand regarding the future of Iraq put to rest all speculations that the two countries were competing for influence in that country. Jordan and Egypt have only two interests in this regard: To see an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people and to ensure that Iraq's unity is kept intact. Furthermore, the two countries cannot decide on the future of Iraq, and think only Iraqis should do that.

However, King Hussein has repeatedly warned that the status quo, if it is to prevail longer, would ultimately result in a division of that brotherly country. Any such calamity would have far-reaching consequences on the Arab Nation, especially on its eastern flank. The recent presidential election in Iraq that mainly took place in the central regions of the country is a dangerous signal that should not be overlooked.

While the situation that led to the status quo was the result of the joint actions of the current Iraqi regime and Western powers, especially the U.S., the future of Iraq should most appropriately be decided by the Iraqi people with the help of their Arab brothers. That is why Mr. Mubarak's visit yesterday assumes an added importance.

Egypt was one of the Arab countries that played a major role in driving the Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in 1991. Egypt, therefore, is in a position to influence the other Arab partners, especially Saudi Arabia and Syria, as well as the West. The Egyptian commitment to safeguarding the unity of Iraq and to ending the plight of the Iraqi people needs to be translated into quick action because the unity of Iraq is in serious threat and the Iraqi people themselves are in need of any help they can get.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily said in its editorial Tuesday this year's Christmas celebrations in the liberated city of Bethlehem give signs of a better future for the region. The paper said this year's celebrations were filled with the long-awaited joy for Bethlehem, the birthplace of the prophet of peace. The Christmas mass which lit up the dark night of the city after the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces filled the hearts of believers all over the world with exultation and jubilation, the paper noted. It said at a time when Christians were praying, His Majesty King Hussein, the peace-maker, was sending his best wishes for celebrators and was imploring the almighty God that peace would prevail in the region in particular, and the world in general. "This year's Christmas celebrations which coincided with the blowing winds of freedom on the Arab Palestinian people on its national soil, give the promise of a better future on the map of developing political, economic and social relations between the region's peoples," said the paper. It concluded: "Let the rings of bells this year be a sign of the completion of the journey of peace on the land of peace and in the whole region."

AL DUSTOUR'S editorial Tuesday dealt with the Syrian-Israeli peace negotiations which will start in the U.S. on Wednesday. It said the negotiations will take place in an atmosphere calling for optimism in view of the positive statements issued by the two sides and affirmations by the U.S. on the seriousness of these negotiations. These negotiations which will be held under the auspices of the U.S. acquire extreme importance since they constitute the first round of talks between the two sides after a recess period of five months, which witnessed great developments, including the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the newspaper said. It added that it hoped that the resumption of negotiations on the occupied Golan Heights would become a victory for the option of peace, which was earlier the choice of the Jordanians and Palestinians, and would be a proof that negotiations are the only realistic option available for the Arabs to regain their legitimate rights.

Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

The anti-terrorism bill revisited

FOR THE third time in as many years, the effort to pass an anti-terrorism bill has stalled in Congress. A broad coalition of legal, ethnic, and religious organisations have come together to oppose this legislation. Their opposition is based on the fear that the proposed bill will violate a wide range of civil liberties guaranteed by the U.S. constitution, and will provide for the potentially abusive expansion of law enforcement.

The 1995 version of the anti-terrorism legislation was initially introduced by the Clinton administration as a part of its effort to counter what they described as domestic U.S. support for foreign terrorist activities. The administration's bill included proposals to ban all U.S. fundraising for groups defined by the president as "terrorist" deny visas to individuals identified with any such "terrorist" group; and allow for the use of secret evidence in extradition trials of individuals accused of membership in those organisations.

It was initially assumed that the administration's proposal would be accepted by the Republican-led Senate and Congress. Opponents of the bill, including Arab Americans, lobbied hard, receiving significant media attention for their complaint that the measures would violate constitutional protections. American Jewish groups, on the other hand, lobbied equally hard in favour of the bill, arguing that it was necessary to stop terrorism, specifically Islamic and Arab terrorism, from finding support in the United States.

But the bill had lost momentum until the April 19 bombing in Oklahoma City added new urgency to the legislation and new cause for the administration and Congress to seek an expansion of law enforcement authority even beyond what the provisions in the original bill enhancing the power of law enforcement agencies to conduct wiretaps and investigations into the activities of "suspicious groups" and reducing the criteria needed to begin such an investigation.

Given the national trauma in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, it was assumed that the expanded bill would easily pass both houses of Congress. But it was at this time that the civil liberties lobby that traditionally influenced liberal members of Con-

gress found new and unexpected allies among conservatives. Angered by the behaviour of federal law enforcement agencies in two recent incidents, conservatives were wary of taking steps to expand the role of the government into the private affairs of citizens.

Public hearings were called in Congress to examine the role of law enforcement agencies at both Ruby Ridge, Idaho, where federal officers in what some saw as an unprovoked attack killed the wife and son of a right-wing extremist; and the tragic events outside of Waco, Texas where law enforcement agencies were once again criticised for the role they played in the deaths of scores of followers of the cult leader David Koresh.

As a result of this new concern among conservatives, the coalition opposing the anti-terrorism legislation grew. To the organisational muscle of the liberal civil liberties groups was added the apparatus of such powerful conservative organisations as the National Rifle Association, Gun Owners of America, and the Law Enforcement Alliance of America.

The Senate ultimately did pass the bill, but with some significant modifications. While some civil liberties groups were not satisfied with the Senate version, the revised bill did provide some additional protections not found in the original.

It was in the House of Representatives that the bill stalled. A group of 50 conservative Republicans balked at the legislation and refused to accept either the administration's or the Senate's revised version. Even when a compromise was proposed which would have deleted the enhanced wiretap provisions, deleted funding for additional FBI personnel, deleted the provision to allow military involvement in civilian law enforcement and deleted the overly broad definition of terrorism, the conservative alliance still refused to support it. And so a coalition of liberals and conservatives in the Congress have all but ended the possibility of passing an anti-terrorism bill in 1995.

The Republican leadership in Congress and the Democratic administration are both pledging to renew their efforts to secure passage of an anti-terrorism bill in 1996, because both sides fear that the failure to pass such a bill will be used as a campaign issue.

But while "anti-terror-

ism" remains an emotional issue, it has not dissuaded both liberals and conservatives participating in the coalition from insisting that any legislation be precise, and not allow law enforcement agencies to overstep their bounds.

During a recent press conference sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union (the group that has led the effort against the anti-terrorism legislation), I made clear our community's continuing opposition to the legislation.

I based my case on a number of issues:

"By the FBI count, since 1982 there have been 175 incidents of domestic terrorism. Of that number, 77 have been committed by Puerto Rican nationalists, 23 by left wing groups, and 12 by anti-Castro Cuban organisations. Eighteen acts were committed by 'Jewish extremists' and 31 by animal rights and environmental groups. In the past 14 years there have been only three domestic terrorism incidents attributed to Arabs or Muslims."

First, the legislation is not necessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Second, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Third, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Fourth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Fifth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Sixth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Seventh, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Eighth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Ninth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Tenth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Eleventh, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Twelfth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Thirteenth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Fourteenth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Fifteenth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Sixteenth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Seventeenth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Eighteenth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Nineteenth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Twentieth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Twenty-first, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Twenty-second, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Twenty-third, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Twenty-fourth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Twenty-fifth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Twenty-sixth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Twenty-seventh, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Twenty-eighth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Twenty-ninth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of incidents averaged roughly 20 per year. In the past few years the number has been reduced to an average of three or four.

Thirtieth, the legislation is unnecessary. In fact, to listen to the national outcry about terrorism in the U.S., one might conclude that the problem was of epidemic proportion. The FBI's own statistics prove the contrary to be true. During the 1970s, there were dozens of domestic acts of terrorism committed each year. Even in the early 1980s when the FBI began to officially publish annual reports on domestic terrorism, the number of

Exploring the ancient mysteries and technology of three centuries of industrial production at Jerash

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

This is the second of two articles on the excavation and restoration of the hippodrome at Jerash. The first article, which appeared on Sunday, discussed the architecture and history of the arena, and today's examines the exciting new information being obtained from the extensive ceramics industry that was located in the arena after its fall into disrepair in the later 3rd century AD.

WHEN INA Kehrberg started work at Jerash in the early 1980s as a member of the Australian team excavating the northern part of the city, she expected to spend a few years studying pottery, glass and other material remains from the Roman and Byzantine periods. Little did she know that 15 years later, she would be — literally — knee-deep in four million pottery shards excavated from the hippodrome at the southern end of the city — representing perhaps the single greatest source of well-dated information on ceramics technology and industrial evolution in the ancient Levant.

The reason for this treasure-trove of ancient pottery is that after the hippodrome went out of use as a chariot-racing arena in the 3rd century AD, it quickly became the centre of the ceramics industry at Jerash. The suitable location provided a large, open space outside but also near the city walls, conveniently divided up into over one-hundred separate chambers (the "rooms" formed by the supporting structures for the arena's seats, which are clearly visible today).

From the 3rd to the early 7th centuries AD (with a pause in the politically turbulent 5th century), the hippodrome area was the largest and most important industrial ceramics area in Roman Gerasa (Jerash's ancient name), producing large amounts of pottery for export as well as for use in the city and its immediate environs. Numerous kilns were located in and near the hippodrome, with most kilns in the Late Byzantine era located outside the arena walls. Some kilns were destroyed during bulldozing operations in the 1960s, and others were destroyed in antiquity, perhaps when the hippodrome was briefly reused for official purposes. Those kilns that have endured have provided important information on ancient technologies and historical chronologies. Equally fascinating, and much more rare, is the enormous collection of over four million shards that represent discarded, misfired, broken or unfired ceramic items, including lamps and other vessels.

For over 300 years, successive generations of potters threw their waste materials into the empty chambers of the hippodrome, with the discards first filling the chambers to the brim and then spilling outside the hippodrome walls. This process started in the late 3rd/early 4th centuries, in the chambers at

A peek into the human past

The study of the massive ancient pottery dump also allows precious insights into the people and families who operated the kilns and pottery workshops. Some unfired vessels still have fingerprints of a potter or his assistants, and a succession of unfired vessels in the dump area of the same kiln span nearly a century of time. Such unusual finds might allow for studies of genealogies of ancient potters or pottery-making families, including informa-

tion on the age of the workers, whether or not they were from the same family, and whether the same family owned or operated the same kiln over a period of several generations. We can also peek into the emotions of our ancient ancestors: The deep fingerprints on one grievously squashed and unbaked bowl obviously were those of an angry potter who squeezed and crumpled up the vessel and threw it away.

The comprehensive variety of pottery forms includes every type of vessel known from the excavations, and some that are new to Jerash. One of the interesting discoveries is that ancient potters' workshops did not specialize, for many different forms of pottery were repeatedly found in the same kiln area.

"We even know that a potter stacked many different kinds of vessels for one firing in the same kiln, and thus did not specialize in individual wares," Kehrberg told the Jordan Times in a recent interview. One lot of unfired objects that was ready to go into a kiln in the Late Byzantine period included fine wares like Jerash bowls, ordinary wares like flat bowls, jars, jugs, casseroles and lids, coarse wares such as roof tiles and large water pipe segments, and even Jerash lamps with small animal heads attached to their handles.

The evidence from the hippodrome suggests that Gerasa's potters differentiated themselves not by type of production but by quality of production, which reflected their different levels of technical and artistic skills. In addition, the evidence indicates that potters used different types of clay from several sources in the region.

Chronologies reassessed

One of the most important results of this work has been the revelation that distinct ceramic forms and shapes that were thought to come from one historical period may, in fact, reflect the cultural legacies of other, earlier periods. Since pottery is a key means of dating architecture and other ancient material remains, the lessons from the hippodrome project may force archaeologists to reassess some of their accepted dating techniques, at least for those excavated levels with pottery forms that are now known to reflect a reuse in ancient times.

Ina Kehrberg has identified at least one potter's workshop where late 3rd century Roman lamp forms were reproduced without change in the 4th/early 5th centuries. Early Byzantine period, alongside typical Early Byzantine lamps and pottery. The Early Byzantine potter in this case used an intact Late Roman lamp to produce a gypsum mould that in turn was used to produce new lamps, sometimes with small adjustments that catered to

ciliations are "better" now than they used to be earlier, pointing to the complexity of the issues that divided the Arab World following the Gulf war.

Mr. Mubarak noted that improvement in Jordanian-Saudi relations, adding that Saudi Foreign Minister Saad Al Faisal had informed him that he will be visiting the Kingdom this week.

Responding to a question on Jordanian-Egyptian relations, the King said that these relations are based on solid foundations.

"There is no sensitivity (in Jordanian-Egyptian relations) and there is no justification for it to exist," King Arafat told me that the draft (agreement) for confederation is ready and in my pocket but I told him to keep it there" as the nature of the future Jordanian-Palestinian relations should be left for the future when the Palestinians regain their rights and are able to express their views under conditions of freedom, the King said.

Mr. Mubarak, who held a closed round of talks with King Hussein before they were joined by officials from both sides, said that achieving Arab reconciliation will serve the interests of all Arab countries.

The Egyptian president told journalists that chances for achieving Arab recon-

Hippodrome was turned into a giant ceramics factory during 3rd-to-6th centuries

Byzantine tests. The round Late Roman lamps with their distinctive decorations were also elongated slightly in the Byzantine era, to produce a "hybrid" form that combined design characteristics from both periods. A similar situation occurs with Late Byzantine lamp forms appearing in Umayyad levels — perhaps because Umayyad era potters simply kept using perfectly good Byzantine era moulds.

In Late Roman kiln dumps, Ina Kehrberg identified two Roman lamp matrixes from the 1st/early 2nd centuries. In the foundation trenches of the hippodrome, the excavators found 1st/2nd century AD pottery shards and dense pockets of misfired and discarded 1st century AD sherds. This indicates that the hippodrome area was used for pottery production well before the Late Roman period (which is not surprising, in view of the ancient penchant to site ceramics industries outside the city walls, near the cemeteries which demanded lamps and other burial goods). Also, these facts indicate that Early Roman potters may have kept using lamp forms designed and first produced in the Late Hellenistic period, a century or two earlier.

A striking aspect of the ancient pottery industry at Gerasa is how little it changed over time. The potters, having developed an efficient and profitable production system, only made slight variations in shapes or decoration over time. Another verdict over time seems to show that today's mass produced pottery in Jordan is of much poorer quality than that manufactured thousands of years ago, in terms of durability of glazes and finishes or of ability to retain water.

"Function and beauty are separated today," Kehrberg notes, "with some people making beautiful forms that are designed for display and others making simpler forms designed for everyday use. Very few people now make ceramic vessels that are both aesthetic and functional."

Tools of the trade

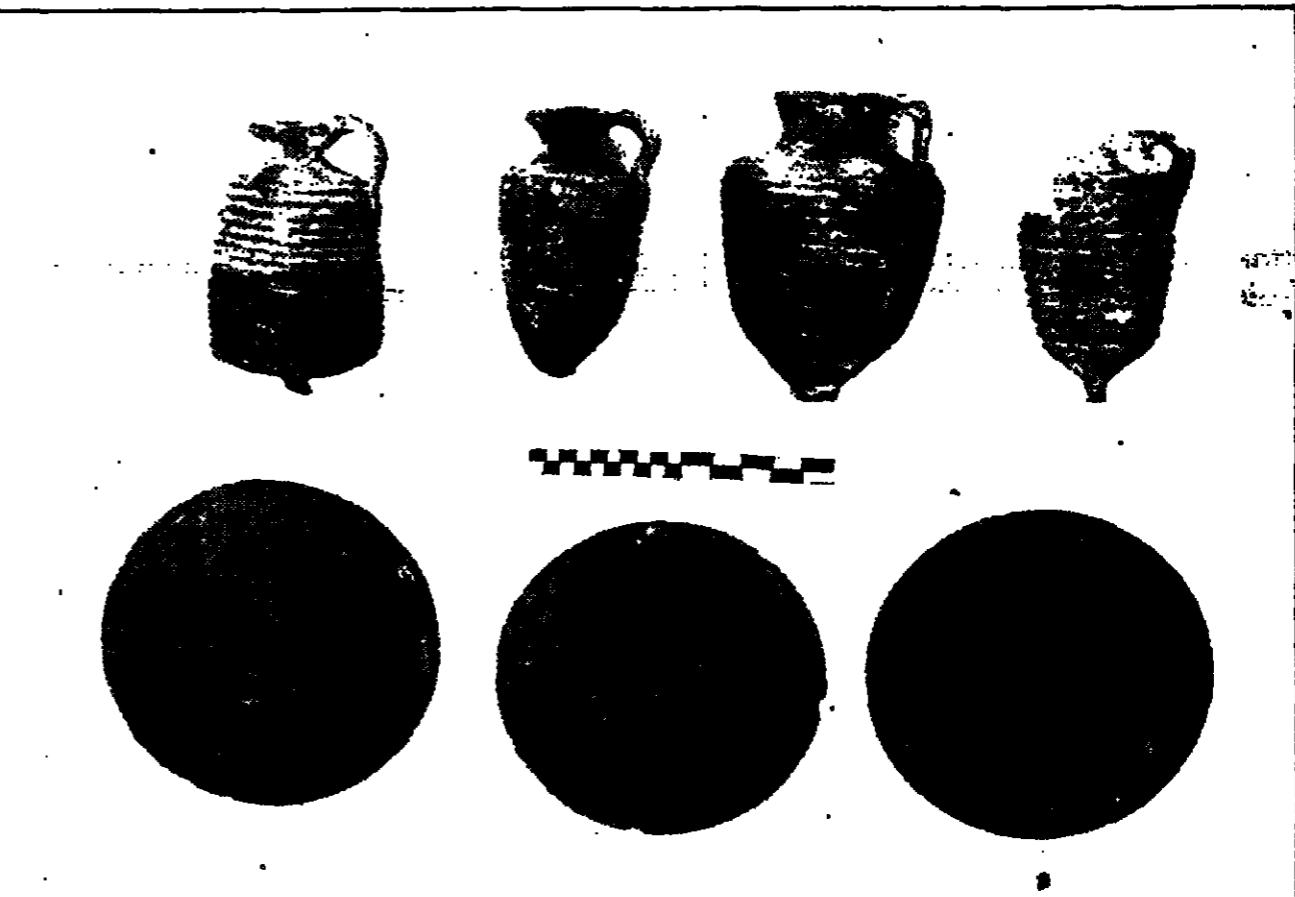
The hippodrome project has also revealed the ancient use of small tools made of chipped and flaked shards of pottery and glass, hundreds of which were found in Late Roman and Byzantine contexts associ-

workers in Fez, Morocco, while shoemakers in the Levant often use simple glass shards to cut leather.

These flaked and chipped



(Above) A Roman lamp matrix (right) that was used to make lamps (left), and below ceramic plates and jugs excavated in the hippodrome (Photos by Ina Kehrberg)



tools were used in two main periods: for the ceramics and tanning industries in the late 3rd/4th centuries AD, and in the ceramics

industry again in the late 6th/early 7th centuries AD (by which time the tanning industry had long vanished, after about a century of existence).

This work is sponsored and funded totally by the Jordanian Department of Antiquities.

Egypt release 95 Brotherhood supporters

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt on

Tuesday released 95 men,

most believed to be sup-

porters of the fundamentalist

Muslim Brotherhood, after

they spent a month in jail for

allegedly planning to disrupt

last month's parliament elec-

tions.

State security prosecutor

Hesham Seraya said some

could face prosecution later

because police say they found

knives, daggers and anti-

government leaflets in their

houses.

He did not say how many

might face trial.

The men were rounded up

— some from their homes —

because "investigations

showed that they were pre-

paring to make trouble dur-

ing the elections," Mr.

Seraya told the Associated

Press.

The Brotherhood is legally

banned, but the group had

been allowed to function

openly until last January

when the government ac-

cused it of links to radical

anti-government attacks.

The government began

cracking down on the

brotherhood, arresting score

s of members and putting

some in jail. Last month, a

military court sentenced 54

Brotherhood members to jail

and some to five years.

The Muslim Brotherhood,

Egypt's largest opposition

group, has charged that nearly 800 of its supporters were

detained in connection with

the Nov. 29 elections and the

Dec. 6 run-offs.

Some were accused of

actions such as disrupting traffic

and incitement. Most are be-

lieved to have been released.

Police confirmed just 240

of the arrests.

Brotherhood officials

charged that the government

was going after its supporters

— including designated poll

watchers — to reduce the

group's chance of winning

parliament seats.

The Brotherhood fielded

150 candidates in the elec-

tions for 444 parliament

seats, but won only one.

The new parliament was

expected to convene next

week after which Denieli

will appoint a new prime

minister.

Turkish rivals agree on pact

(Continued from page 1)

the party with most seats in parliament as prime minister, until this is not a constitutional obligation.

Mr. Demirel on Monday accepted Ms. Ciller's resigna-

King, Mubarak hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

The two leaders expressed optimism about the new round of talks that Syria and Israel will start in the United States Wednesday.

Welcoming what he described as the tangible progress on the Syrian-Israeli track, King Hussein expressed hope that the objective of achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East will soon be achieved.

And once Israel signs peace treaties with Syria and Lebanon and a solution to the Palestinian problem "takes its course" Israel's nuclear armament will have to be addressed, said Mr. Mubarak, urging the international community to help make the region an area free of weapons of mass destruction.

The Egyptian president said he would reject arguments that Israel, which is reported to have about 200 nuclear warheads, would need nuclear weapons because Iran is said to be developing its nuclear capabilities.

Addressing the Labanese-Israeli peace talks, Mr. Mubarak said that the Lebanese track is progressing in parallel with the Syrian track in accordance with the choice of Lebanon.

Israel withdraws from villages

(Continued from page 1)

known as a hotbed of resistance to Israeli rule, in recent years gained a reputation as the West Bank's capital of car thefts.

Nearly 100,000 people live in the five villages, which are part of what the Israel-PLO autonomy accords define as "Area B." The area is to come under joint Israeli-Palestinian security control while enjoying autonomy in civilian areas.

"Our forces have overriding responsibility," Col. Moshe Idan told Israel radio. "The Palestinian police are moved out of Dahirya's market and other positions.

but soldiers remain stationed in the area.

"The army doesn't have much to do. We don't have too many soldiers there," Mr. Dror added.

Col. Idan's withdrawal from Palestinian-populated parts of the West Bank has proceeded over the past six weeks with minimal friction and no victims.

Israeli troops have already left the towns of Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarem, Kalkilya and Bethlehem — in addition to Jericho and the Gaza Strip, which were handed to the PLO in May 1994. Israel is to quit Ramallah within days and most of Hebron itself by March.

Egypt release 95

Brotherhood supporters

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt on

Tuesday released 95 men,

most believed to be sup-

porters of the fundamentalist

Muslim Brotherhood, after

they spent a month in jail for

allegedly planning to disrupt

last month's parliament elec-

tions.

</div

Bankers estimate 1995 growth rate in GCC states at 2.1%

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Higher oil prices and reforms have boosted the economies of six Arab Gulf states this year despite lower government spending and a decline in some sectors, according to officials and bankers.

The oil sector alone in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has grown by around eight per cent as crude prices averaged nearly \$17 in 1995 compared with \$15.50 in 1994, they said.

"The performance of GCC economies recorded positive rates and the results have surpassed expectations," said

Khaled Al Fayed, chief executive of the Kuwait-based Gulf Investment Corporation, which is owned by GCC governments.

"Such results were much better than in 1994. This is because the rise in oil prices hastened growth rates," he said in Gulf press comments this week.

Mr. Fayed gave no figures but bankers have estimated the combined GCC gross domestic product (GDP) would grow by around 2.1 per cent to \$207.6 billion in 1995 from nearly \$203.2 billion in 1994.

A study by Henry Azzam, chief economist of the Saudi National Commercial Bank, showed Saudi Arabia's GDP, which accounts for nearly a quarter of the total Arab

GDP, would likely rise to around \$122 billion from \$120.8 billion.

Kuwait's GDP would increase to \$24.2 billion from \$22.9 billion and the UAE's to \$38 billion from \$36.6 billion.

Oman's GDP surged by more than 12 per cent in the first half of 1995 and was projected to grow by over three per cent by the end of

the year. The economies of the two other GCC members, Bahrain and Qatar, are also set to grow.

This is in contrast with 1994, when most of GCC economies declined due to low oil prices. The decline occurred mainly in government sectors.

According to the state-run Emirates Industrial Bank, the improvement in crude prices would boost the GCC's income by around 10 per cent to \$77 billion in 1995 from around \$70 billion in 1994.

The oil sector's contribution to the GDP ranges between 30 and 40 per cent in the GCC. The other key sectors are construction and trade.

"I believe all GCC economies have grown this year because of the oil price improvement and government measures to restructure the economy. But some sectors have slightly retreated due to drop in investments and government expenditure," said Mahmoud Al Jarwan, director of the Muscat Stock Exchange.

Most GCC states cut spending in 1995 as part of reforms aimed at tackling their budget deficit and reviving their economies after they were hurt by low oil prices.

From \$71.4 billion in 1994, spending was trimmed to \$68.79 billion in 1995, with

most of the cut made by Saudi Arabia.

Lower government spending has a direct impact on the economy in the 14-year-old Gulf alliance as the private sector still relies heavily on such spending given its relatively small contribution to the GDP.

But such a contribution, estimated at 35-40 per cent, is set to surge in the coming years as regional states are pressing ahead with reforms, which cover privatisation, incentives for industries and improvement of investment laws.

The sale of key institutions to the public is expected to fetch the governments billions of dollars and ease the burden of subsidies.

Mr. Fayed urged GCC states to pursue privatisation plans and other reforms to repair their economies and lessen reliance on volatile oil earnings, which account for more than 80 per cent of their income.

"GCC countries should be fully committed to privatisation to liberalise their economies and end bureaucracy and red-tape," he said. "But privatisation needs changes in the existing economic laws.

It means not only the transfer of the ownership from the government to the private sector, but also a change in the structure of companies and their dealings."

Pakistan asks Muslims to focus on technology

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's president Farouk Leghari urged Islamic countries Tuesday to focus on technological development rather than remain passive recipients dependent on others.

"Islamic countries must take cognizance of all innovative ideas and endeavour not only to imbibe them but also to set up institutions where the ummah (Islamic World) too contributes to humanity," he told an Islamic ministerial standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (Comstech).

The three-day meeting of ministers, senior officials and scientists from the 52-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference began to draw up strategy for the promotion of science and technology in the Muslim World.

"We have yet to learn how we can pool our intellectual and physical resources to achieve collective strength and capability and use it for the common good and uplift ...," Mr. Leghari said.

He said Islamic countries were now totally dependent on industrialised countries for techniques, equipment, processes and technical services.

Services, adding that such large-scale dependence hampered national research and development activities.

"As we stand at the threshold of the new century we see an ummah divided, facing serious political, social and economic problems. Illiteracy, disease, malnutrition, food deficiencies, energy shortages, environmental hazards, security weaknesses, all stare us in the face," he said.

"While the industrially advanced countries prepare themselves to move into a 'willed future', we languish in ignorance, even dissipating whatever natural strengths we are blessed with," he added. "How then do we enter the 21st century with any hope of achieving a major transformation from our present unhappy state?"

Mr. Leghari said it was futile to expect scientific organisations to fulfil a long list of ambitious goals without adequate financial backing, and appropriate infrastructure.

"The real challenge for all of us, particularly Muslim leaders and intellectuals, is to start movements for science and technology in our societies," he stressed.

Mr. Leghari said today's Islamic World contributed little to the overall growth and progress of science, an area which he said was "once their sole monopoly." He urged OIC members to reprise their development objectives.

He said new priorities must include mass literacy, technological education, development of human resources, promotion of economic growth, reduction of poverty, improvement in health and scientific management of resources and environment.

Noting most Islamic countries were maritime states bordering the Atlantic, Mediterranean, Red Sea and the Indian and Pacific Oceans, he said: "Such a large marine area, if properly explored and exploited can bring great economic prosperity."

He said vigorous research could lead to the development of marine resources, generation of energy by tidal waves, ocean thermal energy conversion or protection of marine environment.

"However, few Islamic countries have created suitable oceanographic research and development facilities," he said.

Saudi industrial investments soar

Riyadh-based secretariat of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The investments covered 2,036 light and medium projects by the end of 1994 compared with 734 ventures in 1980. They now provide a total of 176,000 jobs.

The study showed the chemical sector was the main beneficiary, with an investment of 90.6 billion riyals (\$24.15 billion). Other industries involved minerals.

building materials, paper, clothes and foodstuffs.

The projects included joint Saudi-foreign ventures worth around 101.5 billion riyals (\$27 billion), mostly in chemicals.

The large investments have pushed up the share of the non-oil industrial sector in the gross domestic product (GDP) to 56.8 per cent, accounting for nearly 245.5 billion riyals (\$65.4 billion). The contribution of the joint ventures alone stood at 42.7 per cent.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your most interesting aims and then today contact those who can assist you in gaining them for your future success.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 19) Carry through with outside career activities in the morning today, and make great progress, but later don't irk a fellow associate in any way.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Listen to what a stranger has to suggest since this could bring progress in the outside world. Later today avoid a disagreement.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be alert to something quite different which can make your activities far more interesting and profitable in the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can easily come to a better understanding with fellow associates at this time, so see them early and gain their added support.

WIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Get that big deal arranged with a fellow associate since it can bring much success and prosperity to you both for the days ahead.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Study how best to enhance the scope of your duties this morning and later today take any health treatments which you may need.

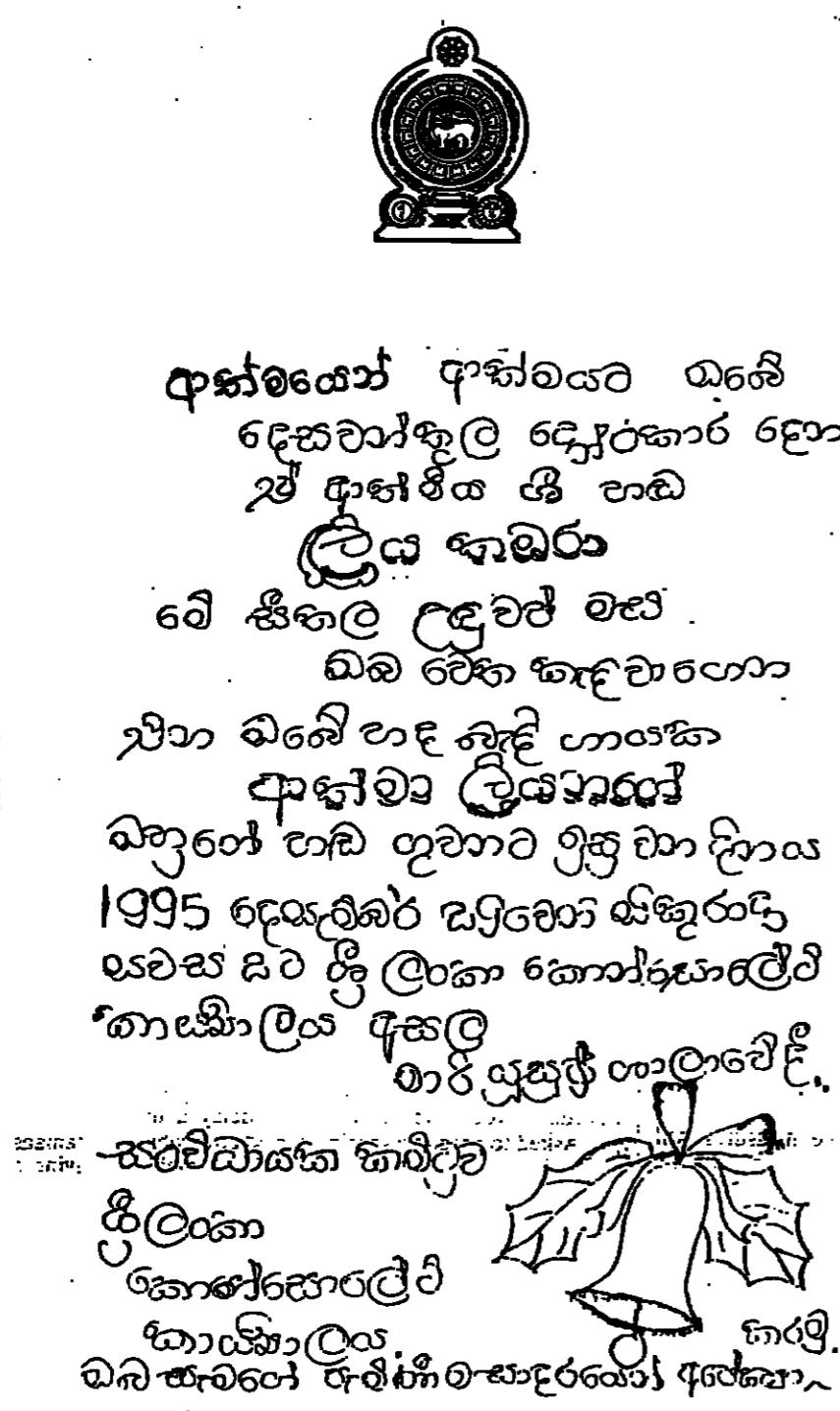
SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Make further arrangements with a good friend for the amusements you want to enjoy later on in the days ahead with loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Study the situation at home and do whatever will bring more harmony there at this time. Be alert to plans of your mate and loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study correspondence well today and let your replies be pleasing to others and get better results than in the past for your success.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Plan how to make your ideas workable at this time so that they become profitable and you can soon have an abundance.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Study what it is you want the most in life at this time and then go after it in a practical fashion. Get in touch with a few friends.



THE Daily Crossword by Robert Zimmerman

ACROSS

1 Flight school events

6 Crack house raider

10 Perfume ingredient

14 Approximately

15 Thought; pref.

16 Opponent

17 Postal uniform?

19 Coin receiver

20 Range of sight

21 "O Sole —"

22 Unknown place

24 Miss Tucker

26 Holiness

27 French region

30 Urgent request

32 Hecate

33 Nobleman

34 45 inches

37 Amo, amas, —

38 Russian leader

39 Vicinity

40 Sweet potato

41 Open letters?

42 Urge

43 — Vallarta

45 Groups of lions

46 Domingo, for one

47 Water nymph

49 No small amount

51 Sister

52 — is me"

55 Melville opus

56 Handwritten address?

58 Colorless; pref.

60 Winged archer

61 Bravura

62 Art deco name

63 Contradict

64 Room for Renee

DOWN

1 Fire

2 Woodwind

3 Bank's offering

4 Umpire's ruling

5 Tolerate

6 Mr. Spock

7 Computer language

31 Goddess of discord

33 A muppet

35 — majesty

36 Girl

38 Flogged

39 Like the Gobi

41 Business VIPs

42 Struts

44 Set free

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

I	N	C	U	M	O	A	C	A	N	A	
N	O	S	O	U	C	L	A	U	I	S	
N	O	W	A	N	D	T	H	E	N	O	
E	N	E	D	E	E	S	K	N	A	V	
R	E	D	H	E	A	I	N	E	S	E	
S	T	A	R	S	K	O	D	Y	A	D	
S	T	A	R	S	K	O	D	Y	A	D	
A	Y	E	Y	E	R	E	Y				

Federation of Chambers of Commerce rejects the campaign

Retailers urged to join public in boycotting coffee

By Ghafia Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The National Society for Consumer Protection (NSCP) issued an appeal Monday calling on coffee retailers to join the public in boycotting coffee.

In the appeal, the NSCP urged retailers to support the coffee-boycott campaign it has launched a week ago adding that increases of coffee prices would harm them and their businesses.

Abdul Fattah Shahin a coffee retailer said that although his sales went down by 40 per cent as a result of the campaign, he would not respond to the NSCP's appeal, and is not willing to

stop selling coffee in his shop. "My clients are used to my coffee, I just can not let them down," he said.

Mr. Shahin added that he supports the campaign and the effort the NSCP has exerted to pressure merchants and distributors of coffee to lower the prices.

"It is very important to pressure coffee merchants and distributors. The prices are so high. The price of 'Extra' beans should go down from JD 4.40 to JD 2.80," Mr. Shahin added.

Mr. Shahin said that he does not sell "robusta" coffee, the only kind that was included in the price reduction the Ministry of Supply imposed on the merchants.

"It is a low grade kind," he said.

Many retailers supported Mr. Shahin's point of view and said they did not have this kind of coffee but now after its price went down they are providing it in their shops to give their clients the freedom of choice.

Meanwhile, the Federation of the Jordanian's Chambers of Commerce rejected the NSCP's campaign to boycott coffee.

It is stated in a statement that the campaign launched by the society was not based on realistic figures.

"It (the NSCP) should have relied on constructive dialogue, without raising unjustified fanfare towards the

commercial sector," said the statement.

It added that the new prices which were fixed by the Ministry of Supply were based on a comprehensive study and coordination with the Association of Foodstuff Traders.

The statement said the prices correspond with the minimum rates offered at the international market during the period of June-November 1995.

Customs duties and import fees were taken into consideration before fixing coffee prices of robusta beans which cost \$2.300-\$2.500 and Brazilian beans \$2.650.

According to the statement, after calculating cus-

toms fees, coffee processing expenses, and the profit margin for importers, one kilogramme of robusta coffee would cost JD 3.05. Therefore it was decided that this kind be sold at JD 3.50 leaving 15 per cent profit for the traders.

The president of the federation, Haider Murad, told the Jordan Times that the Ministry of Supply usually fixes prices of commodities which are usually sold for ordinary people.

As for other kinds of coffee which does not have fixed prices, he said it was up to the consumer to choose the shop that offers reasonable prices.

"The consumer can boycott shop that sell other

kinds of coffee with a high price," said Mr. Murad.

The federation called on the society to present any realistic documents if it had them and said it was ready to hold a meeting with the Ministry of Supply to discuss the issue in an objective manner and in the presence of all parties.

Ghazi Khairi, manager of Farouki said that a boycott campaign should be launched on commodity that many are not dependent on." He added that the NSCP should take into consideration the expenses merchants have to pay.

"Profit barely covers our expenses," said Mr. Khairi.

BUSINESS
A review of news from the Arabic press

Jordanian businessmen 'eager to start' trading with Israel

*** MORE THAN a hundred Jordanian traders have inquired the Ministry of Industry and Trade about the export-import procedures and regulations to and from Israel since a trade agreement between the two countries was signed on Oct. 25, 1995. An authorised source at the ministry said an average of five or six businessmen inquire each day about the trade exchange which will start after the completion of constitutional procedures. The source, requesting anonymity, said there was "eagerness" towards exporting to and importing from Israel but "it is impossible to give the green light to traders before the trade agreement between the two parties passes through all constitutional stages."

However, despite emphasising that there hasn't been any form of trade exchange between Jordan and Israel until now, a number of people say that they have seen some Israeli products in the Jordanian market even if on a limited scale. With more Israeli products bound to appear in the local market sooner or later, many traders, manufacturers and economists are worried of the possibility of Israeli goods swamping the Jordanian market. Under such a forthcoming situation, there is no indication yet on how receptive the Jordanian citizen would be to the Israeli products.

Munir Hamarneh, an economic analyst sees a good number of citizens shunning Israeli goods "because that (buying from Israel) would be difficult at the time when other Arab countries are abiding by the economic boycott of Israel," but he added: "The final judgement is the experiment itself." Dr. Hamarneh pointed out that psychological factors could still be behind people not buying Israeli products. Mohammad Obeidat, head of the National Society for Consumer Protection disagreed and pointed out that Jordanian citizens would not buy an Israeli product if its price is high or its quality is low. He stressed that psychological factors would not have any effect on a person with low purchasing power as this person would primarily seek good products at low costs regardless of the country of origin. Dr. Obeidat said: "The Jordanian consumer is interested in buying the alternate product that can give him/her the utmost satisfaction either through the price or the quality."

Besides accepting the Israeli products in the local market, a large percentage of Jordanians believe that Israeli products would be competitive and would meet the same level of demand as other products imported by the country, Dr. Obeidat added.

Mohamad Miglaleh, a 53-year-old clerk, said that the presence of Israeli products in the market now should be something natural after the peace accord. "We have become friends now and we should accept the new reality. Consuming Israeli products and demanding for them would not harm us and would not shorten our lives," he said.

Ahmad Kashman, a 40-year-old taxi driver, said: "I do not believe there would be high demand for Israeli products once they become available in the local market, even if they are competitive in price. But I will undoubtedly buy these products in the end." Raesah Jdeitawi, a 45-year-old housewife, said dealing in Israeli products in Jordan "would not advance nor delay a thing."

Asked to predict a specific period after which Jordanians would buy Israeli products, Dr. Hamarneh said giving a date would be very difficult at present. Dr. Obeidat, on the other hand, said a period, if there should be any, would be very short (Al Dustour).

Ghor lands to be redistributed to beneficiaries next year

*** AN AUTHORISED source at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has confirmed that agricultural lands between the Ghor area of Karamneh and Sweimeh will be redistributed to beneficiaries from the beginning of next year. The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has taken over the lands when it was implementing the canal extension projects. The source added that authority has carried out the project between 1984 and 1988, adding 14.5 kilometres to the total length of the canal to irrigate 60,000 dunums of agricultural lands. These lands were not distributed to the beneficiaries at the time because the water was not available. With the signing of the peace process, the availability of water and the work of the Karamneh Dam project which will provide enough water to irrigate part of the lands previously taken over by the authority, the JVA will redistribute the lands for agricultural utilisation. Once finished in 1997, the Karamneh Dam, will be able to hold up to 55 million cubic metres of water which will be used to irrigate 60,000 dunums of southern Ghor land (Al Dustour).

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	Dec. 14 - 1995	Today Dec. 22 - 1995	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5165	1.5430	0.42%
Deutsche Mark	1.4411	1.4376	-0.30%
Swiss Franc	1.1634	1.1573	-0.51%
French Franc	4.9655	4.9195	-0.94%
Japanese Yen	102.03	102.30	0.26%

* IND Per \$1.00

Currencies	Dec. 15 - 1995		Dec. 22 - 1995	
	1 Month (%)	1 Year (%)	1 Month (%)	1 Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.75	5.43	5.87	5.41
Sterling Pound	1.38	6.43	6.77	6.20
Deutsche Mark	1.91	7.56	7.88	7.54
Swiss Franc	5.16	4.41	5.10	4.75
French Franc	0.21	0.31	0.18	0.31

Interest Rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 US dollars

Currencies	Dec. 15 - 1995		Dec. 22 - 1995	
	Date	12/14/95	Date	12/14/95
U.S. Dollar	Bid	0.7080	0.7100	
Sterling Pound	Bid	1.0499	1.0493	
Deutsche Mark	Bid	0.4919	0.4944	
Swiss Franc	Bid	0.1111	0.1142	
French Franc	Bid	0.1438	0.1445	
Japanese Yen	Bid	0.6912	0.6947	
Dutch Guilder	Bid	0.1495	0.1477	
Swedish Krona	Bid	0.0840	0.0848	
Italian Lira*	Bid	0.0840	0.0848	
Belgian Franc	Bid			

* Per 100

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

DAJANI
JEWELLERS

Gems of the world . All birthstones in 18 & 21 K gold . Unique designs .

Furnished Apartment For Rent
In Um Uthaina, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, ground floor, telephone. Other apartments and villas. Furnished/unfurnished for rent or sale.
Abdoun Real Estate
Tel: 87065, 81069, 610220

STUDIO HAIG
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:

* JUMBO photo size 30% larger

* Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swiss tel: 823691

A SECURE Hotel Sweifieh
TUTINO Flat.O.TEL SECURITY HOTEL GASTRONOMY
All Suites Hotel FLAT.O.TEL

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swiss tel: 823691

Cheers Cafe' Hamburgers + Pizzas ELITE CAFE' Sweifieh
816690 At TURINO

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swiss tel: 823691

SANABEL REAL ESTATE FOR RENT Deluxe Villas & Apartments in Amman
for further details please call Tel. 864230 Fax. 864231

5th Circle - 692672

Your Address in Amman
CRYSTAL Quality Furnished Suites One and Two Bedrooms Reasonable Rates For Short or Long Stay MAURICE AKKAWI & SONS Francesco Smalto Men's Wear Louis Féraud Ladies Wear

Amra Hotel Commercial Center Tel. 864721

MAURICE AKKAWI & SONS

Francesco Smalto Men's Wear

Louis Féraud Ladies Wear

Amra Hotel Commercial Center

Tel. 864721

NEW YEAR in CAIRO
Jerusalem Express Travel
Amman (Abdali) 685195
(downtown) 622151
Zarqa 8825184
Aqaba 314951
SHIMESANI TEL 680093

Restaurant Taste The Difference Live Music Nightly Lunch & Dinner

Shmeisani TEL 680093

Amra Hotel Commercial Center

Tel. 864721

Shmeisani King Abdullah Gardens

Shmeisani King

Jordan returns but Rockets rule

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Michael Jordan returned, but the Houston Rockets still ruled.

Those were the high points of 1995 for the National Basketball Association (NBA), which also expanded beyond the United States for the first time, settled pay disputes with players and referees and named a 1996 Olympic "Dream Team."

But nothing approached the magic moment in March when Michael Jordan returned to the Chicago Bulls at Indianapolis after 18 months of retirement.

Jordan had switched to minor-league baseball but was unhappy about having to take sides in the major league players' strike. When pushed, he quit the Chicago White Sox and returned home to Chicago.

Rumors swirled for a week before a two-word statement, "I'm back," said all there was to say.

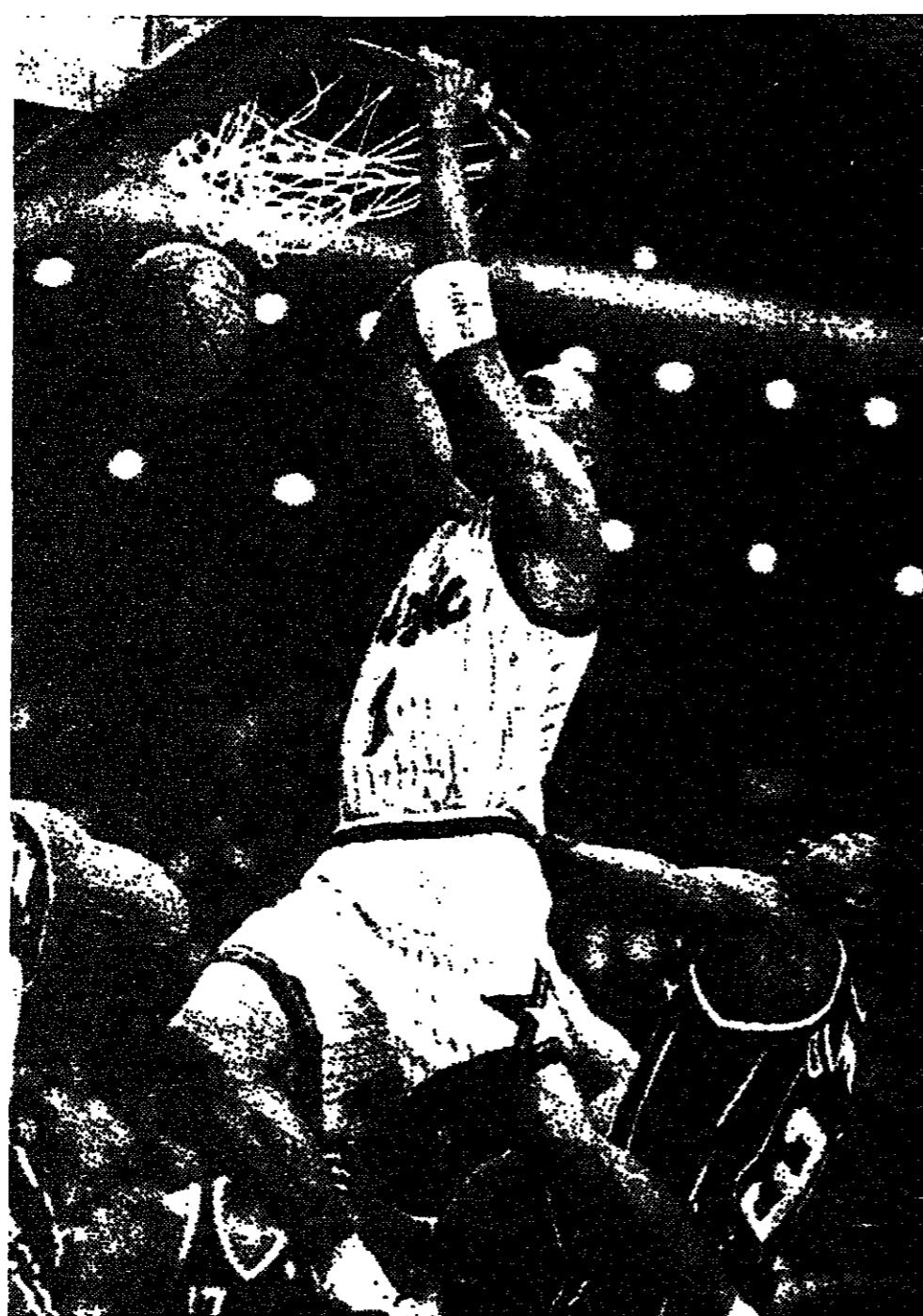
Even though Jordan was inconsistent in his first game back and the Bulls lost to the Indiana Pacers at Indianapolis, the promise of future excitement energised the sport.

The Bulls lost in the second round of the playoffs to Orlando, led by Shaquille O'Neal and Anfernee "Penny" Hardaway. Jordan's struggles prompted extensive off-season training and the high-leaping star has returned to his 30-point per game production. "When I didn't play well in the Orlando series, I started second guessing myself," Jordan said. "Some doubt crept in. Maybe we expected too much. I wanted to come right back and prove I could do it.

"But I think this can be the most exciting season because no one really knows what to expect."

The Bulls, boosted by the arrival to top rebounder Dennis Rodman, took command from the start of the 1995-96 season and now have the NBA's best record. Jordan leads the league in scoring. Orlando also started strong despite a broken thumb that sidelined O'Neal for the Magic's first 22 games. Miami was a surprise success under new coach Pat Riley and Alonzo Mourning, obtained in an opening-day trade with Charlotte.

The era without Jordan has seen the rise of Hakeem Olajuwon and the Rockets, who won their second consecutive



Orlando Magic guard Anfernee Hardaway (left) slams a basket as Houston Rockets center Hakeem Olajuwon looks on during their

Christmas day NBA game at the Orlando

Arena (AFP photo)

crown by sweeping Orlando in the final.

Nigerian-born Olajuwon sealed his place among the NBA's elite by spiking Houston from a sixth-place regular season finish to an unprecedented playoff sweep of the NBA season's four winningest clubs.

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Olajuwon was among 10 players named to the 1996 U.S. Olympic basketball team, dubbed "Dream Team III." Olajuwon was granted a special exemption to play for the United States after becoming a citizen last year.

Joining Olajuwon on the Atlanta-bound roster are O'Neal and Hardaway of Orlando, Scottie Pippen of the Bulls, Detroit's Grant

"When you have a great player like Hakeem, he amazes us every year," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "I have never seen a guy have a more consistent spectacular playoff."

OlaJuwon was among 10 players named to the 1996 U.S. Olympic basketball team, dubbed "Dream Team III." Olajuwon was granted a special exemption to play for the United States after becoming a citizen last year.

Joining Olajuwon on the Atlanta-bound roster are O'Neal and Hardaway of Orlando, Scottie Pippen of the Bulls, Detroit's Grant

BASKETBALL REVIEW NBA

"When you have a great player like Hakeem, he amazes us every year," Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "I have never seen a guy have a more consistent spectacular playoff."

OlaJuwon was among 10 players named to the 1996 U.S. Olympic basketball team, dubbed "Dream Team III." Olajuwon was granted a special exemption to play for the United States after becoming a citizen last year.

Joining Olajuwon on the Atlanta-bound roster are O'Neal and Hardaway of Orlando, Scottie Pippen of the Bulls, Detroit's Grant

Penny, Grant and Shaq," Chicago forward Scottie Pippen said.

Turmoil dominated between the seasons as owners locked out players in a contract dispute. The union reached a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

The Pacific rim Grizzlies were not even two months old before setting a new league standard for futility with their 19th consecutive defeat.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

The Pacific rim Grizzlies were not even two months old before setting a new league standard for futility with their 19th consecutive defeat.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

The Pacific rim Grizzlies were not even two months old before setting a new league standard for futility with their 19th consecutive defeat.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

The Pacific rim Grizzlies were not even two months old before setting a new league standard for futility with their 19th consecutive defeat.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

The Pacific rim Grizzlies were not even two months old before setting a new league standard for futility with their 19th consecutive defeat.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

The Pacific rim Grizzlies were not even two months old before setting a new league standard for futility with their 19th consecutive defeat.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

The Pacific rim Grizzlies were not even two months old before setting a new league standard for futility with their 19th consecutive defeat.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

The Pacific rim Grizzlies were not even two months old before setting a new league standard for futility with their 19th consecutive defeat.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

The Pacific rim Grizzlies were not even two months old before setting a new league standard for futility with their 19th consecutive defeat.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

The Pacific rim Grizzlies were not even two months old before setting a new league standard for futility with their 19th consecutive defeat.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

The Pacific rim Grizzlies were not even two months old before setting a new league standard for futility with their 19th consecutive defeat.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danilovic with Miami and Lithuania's Arvydas Sabonis at Portland.

Two dozen international players are now in the league, reaching a deal, but several top players like Jordan and New York's Patrick Ewing fought to decertify the union and have the pact thrown out.

The Pacific rim Grizzlies were not even two months old before setting a new league standard for futility with their 19th consecutive defeat.

A vote of league players backed the union and the deal and the season began on

Hill, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Indiana's Reggie Miller, San Antonio's David Robinson and Milwaukee's Glenn Robinson. "Playing on the original Dream Team was a great experience, but I'm really looking forward to playing with the younger guys like

time. But it did not start with regular referees. They rejected a league deal and were replaced by minor-league substitutes for the first six weeks of the season. Their return was greeted with joy by coaches and players who typically complain about their every call.

The NBA's global expansion continued with more top international players in the league, such as Yugoslavia's Predrag Danil

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1995

Sayonara leads fleet out of Sydney Harbour

SYDNEY (R) — U.S. maxi Sayonara, with media tycoon Rupert Murdoch on board, stormed out of Sydney Harbour to lead the fleet in the 51st Sydney-to-Hobart yacht race and a possible race record on Tuesday.

However, the state-of-the-art \$2.0 million maxi gained the lead only after Australian maxi Fudge saw her mainsail tear while beating towards the heads in the steady 10-15 knot northeasterly.

Fudge, formerly Matador and built in 1990 for America's Cup winner U.S. yachtsman Bill Koch, had been regarded as too old and heavy to be a real contender in the 630 nautical mile race. But she surprised the fleet with her speed at the start.

Fudge, formerly Matador and built in 1990 for America's Cup winner U.S. yachtsman Bill Koch, had been regarded as too old and heavy to be a real contender in the 630 nautical mile race. But she surprised the fleet with her speed at the start.

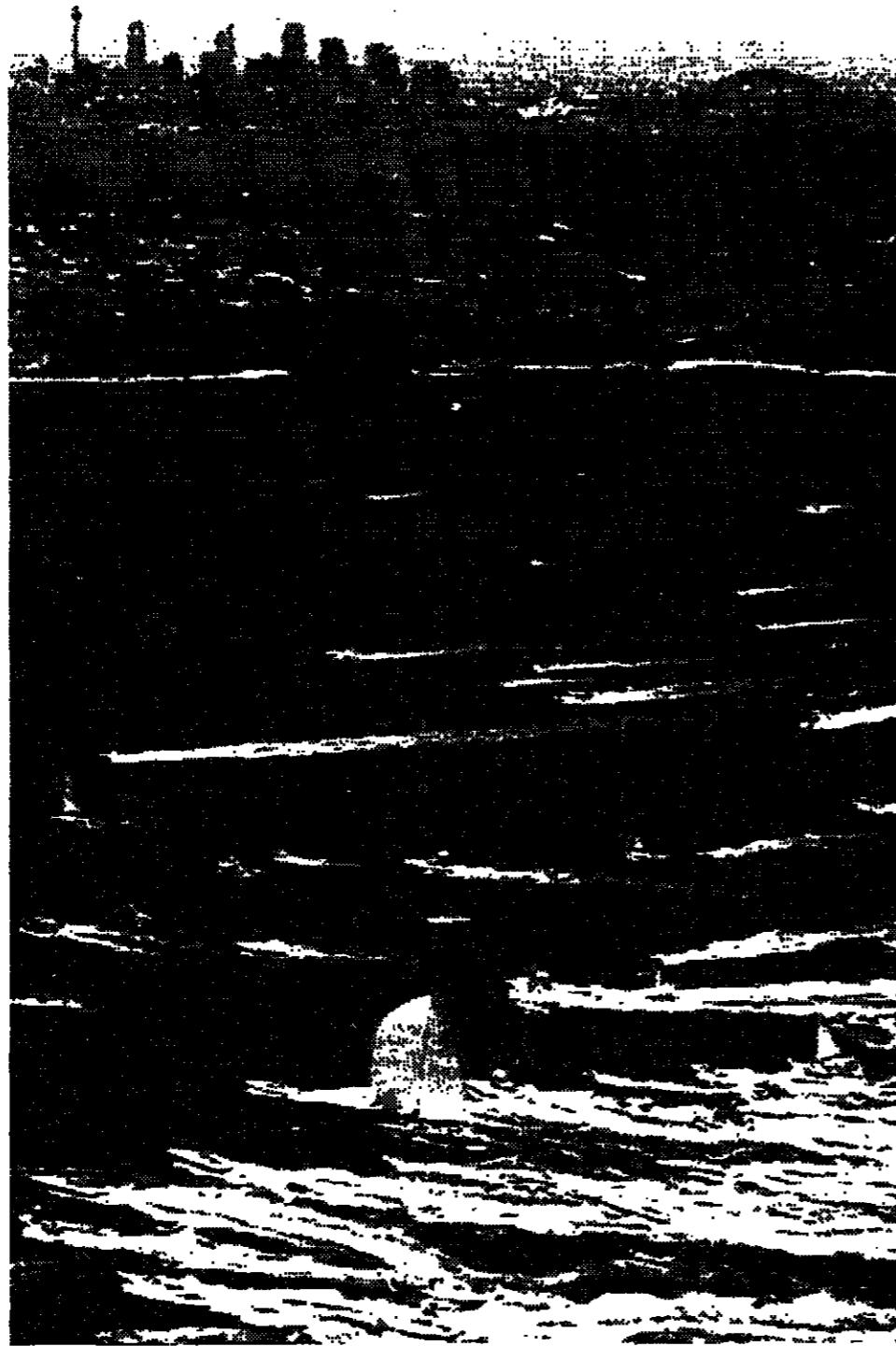
Yacht designer Murray ordered dramatic changes in the past few days, removing seven tonnes of ballast and lowering the mainsail 2.5 metres to improve performance.

As the yachts tacked along the west of the harbour, Fudge opened a comfortable lead over the 23.73-metre (77.86 feet) race favourite Sayonara and the 22.9-metre (75 feet) Australian maxi Brindabella, which came second in 1994 by seven minutes.

After cutting across the harbour to the eastern shore with about one km to the harbour mark Sayonara forced Brindabella to tack away.

But as the three maxis ploughed towards the heads, Fudge's mainsail ripped loose at the foot, flapping wildly. Despite frantic efforts to reef in the main, Sayonara quickly sailed past the giant yacht and into the lead.

Sayonara, boasting a crew



U.S. maxi Sayonara outside Sydney heads Sydney to Hobart yacht race December 26 surrounded by pleasure craft at the start of the (Reuters photo)

littered with America's Cup and Whitbread around-the-world sailors, opened up a five-boat-length lead and cleared the harbour mark in 18 minutes 47 seconds at the head of the 98-boat fleet.

Second favourite Brindabella followed 55 seconds later with Fudge a further 15 seconds behind. In fourth was the downwind flyer pocket Maxi Amazon, regarded as

a real danger if the winds blow consistently from the north.

But all eyes were on Sayonara, the new ILC70 maxi made of carbon fibre and powered by computer-moulded Kevlar sails, which is tipped to break the 20-year race record.

Shortly after hoisting her spinnaker at the seaward mark and turning south, Sayonara was clocked surfing at 16 knots. In order to break the race record she has to

average 10.2 knots.

U.S. maxi ketch Kialoa set a record two days 14 hours 36 minutes and 56 seconds in 1975.

Race weather officials have forecast a mild 20-25 knot southerly change should hit the fleet on Wednesday, followed by a westerly on Thursday — giving the front

runners a fast run across the notorious bass strait to Hobart.

The Sydney-to-Hobart, one of the world's top three blue water classic yacht races along with England's Fastnet and the United States' Newport to Bermuda, is nicknamed 'hell or high water'

having claimed two lives and left scores of yachts wrecked.

In 1993 mountainous seas forced more than half the fleet to retire due to damage.

Rupert Murdoch, chairman of news corporation, has competed in four Hobarts, sailing his timber ketch Ilina into second place in 1964.

Murdoch, who had surgery on a finger last Thursday after an accident on Sayonara during a harbour race, was invited to sail to Hobart as general crew by owner and friend Larry Ellison, founder of U.S. computer firm Oracle.

Khan, 26, who beat England's Del Harris 15-10, 17-14, 16-17, 15-8 in the final for a record seventh victory, said afterwards: "The blisters were so painful, when I lost the third game, I was about to scratch."

However, Khan decided to

Asian stars shine in '95 racket sports

PARIS (AFP) — Asian racket sports exponents shone in 1995 with China winning two badminton world titles, plus a clean-sweep seven world table tennis championship golds and the men's singles World Cup, but Pakistan earned the squash men's sing-

les title.

In table tennis, China's World Cup winner Kong Linghui gave a taste of his strong challenge for next year's Olympics after winning the World Cup singles in Nimes, France in October. Kong, who added the World Cup crown to the world title he won in Tianjin, China in May, said: "Winning in Atlanta will be much tougher than my world championship or World Cup titles."

China completed a clean-sweep of all seven world championship titles on home soil earlier in the year.

Should Kong, who beat Germany's 1992 European champion Jorg Rosskopf 18-21, 24-22, 22-20, 21-14 to earn the 33,000 World Cup top prize, win in Atlanta, Georgia, he would complete an unprecedented treble.

He would become the holder of the world, Olympic and World Cup titles at the same time.

Kong, quick on his feet and with a powerful right-handed attacking game, showed tenacity in tight situations throughout the match.

Rosskopf, however, known for a lightning fast backhand, good physical fitness and steady nerves, could have won 3-0, but kept losing big leads.

China have now won the World Cup title nine times in the 16-year history of this 16-man invitation event — the most prestigious annual tournament in the sport as the world championships are every two years and the Olympics are every four years.

Guo Yuchua won in 1980 and 1982, Jiang Jialiang won in 1984, Chen Xinhua, who now plays for England, won for China in 1985, Chen Longcan won a year later, and Teng Yi won in 1987.

Then Ma Wenge won in both 1989 and 1992.

Jansher Khan, who won the 1995 men's World Open Squash Championships in Cyprus in November, was on the verge of pulling out during the final because of terrible pain in a blistered right foot.

Khan, 26, who beat England's Del Harris 15-10, 17-14, 16-17, 15-8 in the final for a record seventh victory, said afterwards: "The blisters were so painful, when I lost the third game, I was about to scratch."

However, Khan decided to

keep going and managed to win in 101 minutes for his seventh title, one better than the six crowns held jointly by Jansher and legend and countryman Jahangir Khan.

A large blister on the ball of his right foot and another on his right heel were lanced on Friday night and bandaged. However the pain was considerable until the bandage was tightened for the fourth game when Khan ran out an easy winner. Khan added afterwards: "My country Pakistan will be very happy with the record. They have all been waiting for it."

And on the match, he continued: "Harris played very well, but I have played him before and beaten him. Even though he took the third game, I still had confidence at 2-1 up.

"I thought I could keep him back and force him to make mistakes, which I did in the fourth set."

Khan also staked his claim

for the best squash player of all time as he earned a seventh win.

For Khan, unbeaten in 13 tournaments dating back to early 1994, it was yet another milestone on the way to his ultimate ambition of becoming the greatest ever.

The three candidates are Australia's Geoff Hunt, an eight-time British Open winner and four-time world champion, Jahangir Khan of Pakistan, a 10-time British Open winner and a six-time world champion, compared to Jansher Khan's seven world titles, one better than his namesake, and four British Opens.

Meanwhile, in the world of badminton, Heryanto Arby of Indonesia and China's Ye Zhaoying were the singles winners in the world championships in Lausanne, Switzerland in May.

Arby overcame poor form in the Sudirman Cup world mixed team event the week

before to beat South Korea's Park Sung Woo 15-11, 15-8 in the singles final.

And Ye was the surprise

winner — Olympic and de-

fending world champion Susi Susanti of Indonesia was the favourite — in the women's

event.

Ye beat compatriot Han

Jingna 11-7, 11-0 in the final.

The week before in the Sudirman Cup, China caused a sensation to beat holders and favourites Indonesia 3-1 in a controversial final.

At the end of the fourth

rubber, a Chinese flag was

thrown on to the head of an

Indonesian official, who re-

fused to give the flag back.

There was jostling and

pushing, and, after the en-

suing bad feeling, the fifth

and final dead rubber was not

played.

In the three doubles

events, Indonesia, Denmark

and South Korea had gold

medals.

**FORTE
GRAND**
AMMAN

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN GRAND STYLE

Welcome the New Year at Andalusia Restaurant

in grand style with dazzling entertainment by

The Irish International European Band.

Superb cuisine and the very best service as

you dance your way through the traditional

midnight célébrations and beyond.

Price JD48 inclusive with a glass of champagne



Or welcome the New Year at China Town in extravagant Oriental style entertained by the duo Eyad & Samer.

Our Chinese chefs have created an extravagant menu to take you through the traditional celebrations.

Price JD32 inclusive with a glass of champagne



For reservations please call 696511 ext. 6543

Jordan Timber Processing Industries Co. Ltd. (JTPI)



With reference to the company's earlier advertisement about the sale of the plants which was set on December 28, 1995 as a deadline to receive bids and in compliance with the desire of the local and foreign companies which had requested an extension of the deadline so that they can pay visits to the site and present their bids after the end of the year & new year feast.

The liquidation committee has decided to extend the deadline for receiving bids until 2:00 p.m. of

Thursday March 28, 1996.

For more information please refer to the secretary of the liquidation committee at the following address:

Jordan Timber Processing Industries Co. Ltd.
Shmeisani, Al Naser Centre building Tel: 661030 Fax: 677648
P.O.Box: 2690 Amman 11181 Jordan.

TODAY

CINEMA TEL: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
Pierce Brosnan as James Bond 007 in **GOLDENEYE**
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:05, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

CINEMA TEL: 699238
PLAZA
Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
* The Santa Clause Shows: 12:30, 2, 5:00

CINEMA TEL: 677420
CONCORD
Val Kilmer & Nikol Kidman in **Batman Forever**
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:30
Jack Nickolson in **WOLF**
Shows: 6:00, 10:30 p.m.
Silvester Stallone in **ASSASSINS**
Shows: 3:30, 8:30 p.m.

AMMOUN THEATRE & CINEMA TEL: 618274 - 618275
After the renovation ...
Presents to its dear clients the strongest Arab & Foreign films as of 1 Jan. 96

Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155
Shows begin on Dec. 19, 1995 and continue on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (three days a week) only. The programme continues until the start of the holy month of Ramadan. The Show is entitled: **"Ahlan Tatbie"**
Welcome Normalisation
For reservation call 625155

Today is 1/1/96

Yemen threatens to win back island with force

SANA (AFP) — Yemen warned on Tuesday it could resort to force to win back a disputed Red Sea island captured by Eritrean troops, after more fighting was reported in the strategic Hanish archipelago.

"The fact that Yemen has opted for a peaceful solution does not mean that it will stand idly by," said the government daily Al Sawra, adding that Sanaa "is capable of taking the island by force."

The warning came as diplomats said two Eritrean military boats were repulsed by Yemeni forces stationed on the Isle of Jebel Zogar, 17 kilometres north of the island of Hanish Al Kabir (Greater Hanish), which was captured by Eritrea Dec. 18.

The diplomats, who gave no further details, said Yemeni forces prevented the boats from landing on the island early on Tuesday, although Eritrean President Issias Afeworki insisted there had been no clashes in the past two days.

Earlier, the daily Al Jumhuriya in Sanaa said Yemen had so far avoided force to regain the island because it wanted to prevent "exposing shipping in the major waterway to danger."

The government in Sanaa is facing mounting criticism over its handling of the crisis from many Yemenis who feel that they have been beaten by a country even poorer than they are.

Mr. Afeworki added 195 detained Yemeni troops

were handed over swiftly and unconditionally to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which dispatched envoy Jean-Francois Sangane from Addis Ababa to Asmara on Saturday.

"The ICRC can have the prisoners as soon as they're ready to take them. It's only a logistical question, a matter of days," Mr. Asmeron said.

Mr. Mesfin made a second brief visit to Asmara on Tuesday before returning to Ethiopia as part of a shuttle diplomacy which has yet to achieve a tangible result.

Both sides have camped on opposing positions. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has called on Eritrea to remove its forces from Hanish Al Kabir before bilateral negotiations on the islands future can begin.

Eritrea has called for both sides to withdraw their troops from the region before taking the issue to arbitration at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Egypt has also been trying to resolve the crisis, with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak speaking by telephone Tuesday with his Eritrean counterpart.

Mr. Afeworki assured Mr.

Mubarak that "his country stopped all military operations, and there has been no military action for the past two days," Egyptian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin.

"We're suggesting the names of United States, France, Ethiopia and Egypt to create an international, neutral body that could go there and monitor the withdrawal," Mr. Asmeron said.

Mr. Asmeron added 195 detained Yemeni troops

Authorities seize 'dangerous' chemicals headed for Iraq

AMMAN (AFP) — Customs officials said Tuesday they had seized several kilograms of "extremely dangerous" imported chemical products heading for Iraq.

The seizure took place recently after the products, which could be used to make chemical weapons, had been waiting in Jordan for several months to pass through strict border controls and be delivered to Iraq, they said.

The authorities also seized last month machine tools that could be used in the manufacture of missiles, that were also destined for Iraq.

The bulk of the goods destined for Iraq have to pass through Jordan, the only outlet Baghdad has with the outside world because of a U.N. oil and trade embargo imposed on Baghdad after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Under U.N. resolutions, Iraq has to satisfy U.N. arms inspectors that it has destroyed all its weapons of mass

destruction to win a lifting of the oil sanctions.

It is not allowed to have any chemical weapons or missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres.

The latest haul came after Jordan seized in late November gyroscopes which could be used as guidance systems for long range missiles.

The chemicals were discovered after Iraq handed over documents to the U.N. special commission in charge of Iraqi disarmament (UNSCOM) following the defection of former industry minister General Hussein Kamal Hassan to Jordan in August.

The documents revealed Iraq's links with foreign companies supplying it with armaments contravening the embargo.

Since then, Jordan has decided to clamp down on several Jordanian firms suspected of acting as smokescreens for Iraqi business dealings.

One of the firms, belong-

ing to a Palestinian businessman from Gaza was implicated in importing the Russian gyroscopes from Moscow, officials said. Iraq denied having imported the equipment and Moscow denied it was Russian made.

However, Rolf Ekeus, the UNSCOM chairman, announced on Thursday that his inspectors had found gyroscopes in the Tigris River last week. Mr. Ekeus said they were of the same type as those seized in Jordan.

Meanwhile, foreign minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told the Qatari daily Al Rayy on Tuesday that Jordan had "no intention of closing the border with Iraq" despite the seizures of military equipment.

A Jordanian delegation arrived in Iraq on Monday to negotiate a deal for extra Iraqi oil to meet the country's 1996 needs. Iraq is the only supplier of oil to Jordan, providing about 70,000 barrels per day under a special U.N. exemption.

In northeastern Bosnia, meanwhile, the first U.S. combat unit crossed into Bosnia from Croatia over the Sava River where it forms the border.



JORDANIAN-EGYPTIAN TALKS: His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Tuesday hold private talks in the port city of Aqaba (see story page 1) (photo by Yousef 'Allan)

Serb leaders demand delay in turning over parts of Sarajevo

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Bosnian Serb leaders demanded up to a year's delay in turning over parts of Sarajevo they control to the Bosnian government during a meeting Tuesday with the NATO commander.

Momcilo Krajisnik, a top aide to Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, suggested after the meeting that NATO insistence on beginning reunification of the city Jan. 19 could threaten the peace agreement.

"We certainly tried to explain that the key to the implementation of the agreement lies in Sarajevo," Mr. Krajisnik told reporters. "We should find a good solution for Sarajevo and remove the main obstacle of the agreement."

He did not specify how Bosnian Serbs would respond if NATO insists on its current schedule.

The demand came from Mr. Krajisnik since Adm. Leighton Smith shunned Karadzic and Gen. Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander, during talks with Serb officials because both are accused war criminals.

"Our policy is that we do not deal with indicted war criminals. If we encounter them, we will do our best to detain them," said NATO spokesman, Capt. Mark Van Dyke.

In northeastern Bosnia, meanwhile, the first U.S. combat unit crossed into Bosnia from Croatia over the Sava River where it forms the border.

A unit of the 1st Cavalry Regiment, including eight Bradley fighting vehicles and a number of Humvees — jeeps — crossed by barge to secure the river bank where U.S. army engineers are to build a pontoon bridge. They then moved south to set up a checkpoint on a former front-line.

In Sarajevo, Bosnian government troops and their Serb foes pulled back from front lines as NATO soldiers positioned themselves between the factions. Between 300 and 400 French soldiers were moving between the factions in areas being demilitarized around Sarajevo.

Local armies have been given until midnight Wednesday (2300 GMT) — a week since NATO formally took over from a U.N. peacekeeping force — to complete preliminary withdrawals.

Capt. Van Dyke said the hostile armies already had left most of the 38 zones to be vacated by Wednesday. "Everything is going very smoothly," he said.

Adm. Smith, who heads the NATO-led mission to enforce the Dayton peace plan, met with Mr. Krajisnik and Aleksa Buta, self-styled foreign minister of the Bosnian Serbs in Pale, 15 kilometres southeast of Sarajevo.

His trip to Pale had two purposes: To establish personal contact with Serb political leaders and promote freedom of movement over former frontlines, as called for in the peace agreement

signed Dec. 14 in Paris.

Under that pact, Sarajevo is to revert to being a unified city under jurisdiction of the Muslim and Croat federation that is to share Bosnia with the Serbs. The reunification process is to begin Jan. 19, but Adm. Smith said the Serbs asked for a delay of between three months and nearly a year.

"I didn't say 'yes' or 'no,'" Adm. Smith said, adding that he told the Serbs he would consider the request and "take into account all aspects." He said he was empowered as commander of the NATO-led mission to consider an extension.

People in Serb-held sections of Sarajevo are vehemently opposed to living under the rule of their wartime enemies. A referendum earlier this month overwhelmingly rejected a Muslim and Croat-governed Sarajevo. Hundreds already have left Serb-held suburbs — some even taking coffins containing the remains of loved ones.

Though all other parties to the peace agreement reject Bosnian Serb requests that its provisions on Sarajevo be renegotiated, Mr. Krajisnik seemed to be holding on to that option Tuesday.

"Sarajevo Serbs will never accept Muslim authority in its present form because there is fear — the legacy of a bloody civil war and too many people killed and maimed on both sides," he said.

Mr. Krajisnik shielded Adm. Smith from the pour-

ing rain under umbrella as the two made their way out of the meeting. They sat next to each other at their joint news conference, the Bosnian Serb flag draped behind them.

Bosnian Serbs were evasive and appeared uncomfortable when asked about where Mr. Karadzic is, and about his future role. Sources said, though, that Mr. Karadzic apparently was somewhere.

Both Mr. Karadzic and Gen. Mladic have been indicted on charges of genocide by a U.N. war crimes tribunal and are subject to arrest on sight by members of the NATO-led implementation force — IFOR — assigned to keep the peace in Bosnia.

In all, 60,000 NATO-led troops — the United States, Britain and France have the largest contingents — are taking positions in Bosnia to enforce a U.S.-brokered peace accord that seeks to end Europe's deadliest war since World War II.

An aide to Adm. Smith, Rear Adm. John Nathman, speaking in Zagreb, Croatia, said U.S. army engineers are to start building a pontoon bridge at Zupanja, Croatia, across the Sava River into Bosnia around Dec. 30. The bridge will be used to transport most of the equipment of the 20,000-strong U.S. force into the northeastern sector of Bosnia that they will patrol.

Seabees — U.S. navy engineers — have arrived at the site to build a tent city to shelter nearly 7,000 troops, he said.

COLUMN 10

Australian revellers clash with police at Bondi

SYDNEY (R) — Australian police in riot gear clashed with hundreds of Christmas revellers early Tuesday as rioting crowds attacked a bus and cars at Sydney's famous Bondi Beach, police said. Two policemen were slightly hurt as officers were struck by bottles, stones and other objects thrown by revellers, many of them drunk, a spokesman said. There were no arrests but the thousands of dollars worth of damage and tonnes of rubbish left on the beach prompted official threats to ban the traditional Christmas Day party. This year's festivities at the tourist spot attracted more than 20,000 people, many of them foreigners. The daytime party had passed off peacefully, in contrast to previous years. But scores of riot police were called late Monday after brawling broke out and crowds attacked a bus, police and private cars. The bus passengers were lucky to escape unharmed when the revellers tried to overturn the vehicle. The driver escaped by steering his bus through the crowds, the spokesman said. He said Bondi had attracted thousands of overseas tourists but they had not sparked the trouble. He blamed the fighting on "troublemakers" from the city's heavily populated western suburbs who he said were looking for an excuse for violence.

AIDS patient in good shape after baboon cell transplant

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An AIDS patient who underwent a risky experimental baboon cell transplant last week had some gastrointestinal problems but was spending Christmas with friends, a hospital spokeswoman said. "Jeff Getty is doing well. He's had a few gastrointestinal problems but he seems to be doing a little bit better. He's visiting with friends today." Alice Trinkel, spokeswoman for the San Francisco General Hospital, said in a recorded message from San Francisco, California. The 38-year-old, who was diagnosed with AIDS nine years ago, underwent the first baboon-to-human transplant of bone marrow cells on Dec. 14 at the hospital. Doctors hope the animal's natural resistance to the AIDS virus will boost Mr. Getty's immune system to halt progress of the fatal disease.

Bullying cases at Japanese schools surge

TOKYO (AFP) — The number of bullying cases reported at Japanese public schools surged to 56,601 in the year to March this year, 2.6 times more than the previous year, the Education Ministry said Friday. According to a nationwide survey, 166 students committed suicide, up 35 cases from the previous year. Bullying was blamed for five of the suicides, including last November's case of a 13-year-old school boy which made headlines and prompted national concern. The boy left a suicide note saying he was forced by bullies to pay more than one million yen (\$9,850) and that he could no longer stand it. The surge in reported bullying cases resulted from increased efforts on the part of schools to find them, a ministry official said. The ministry issued a notice to them to conduct thorough inspection following last November's case.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jan. 1 declared public holiday

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and public institutions will observe a holiday on Monday, Jan. 1 to mark the beginning of the new year, according to a communique issued by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

Al Allaf joins Arab League

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria's chief negotiator with Israel, Mowafak Al Allaf, has left the peace team to become assistant secretary-general of the Cairo-based Arab League, officials said on Tuesday. Walid Al Musalem, Syria's ambassador to the United States and Michael Wahbi, director of the Syrian foreign minister's office, will take part in the new round of Syrian-Israeli talks opening near Washington on Wednesday. Officials said Mr. Allaf would take over the international political affairs department from Adnan Omran, also a Syrian, whose assignment ends this month.

Kazakhstan president begins Israel visit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev met with his Israeli counterpart Ezer Weizman on Tuesday at the start of the first official visit to Israel by a leader of the Muslim-led former Soviet republic. Mr. Nazarbayev arrived for the three-day visit at the head of a 110-member delegation which included his foreign and defence ministers, three other cabinet members and a large number of economic officials and businessmen. He and his wife were officially greeted in Jerusalem by Mr. Weizman and then paid their respects at the tomb of slain Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Nazarbayev is scheduled to hold talks Wednesday with Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who visited Kazakhstan as foreign minister in August, and with Israeli business leaders. Mr. Peres and the Kazakh leader are due to sign agreements concerning investment ties and cooperation in the fields of agriculture, health and environment, the Israeli foreign ministry said.

Shamir will not run for parliament

TEL AVIV (AP) — Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, a staunch opponent of land-for-peace agreements with the Arabs, announced Tuesday that he would not run for parliament in the 1996 general elections. Mr. Shamir, 80, lost the 1992 election to the late Yitzhak Rabin and a year later was replaced by Benjamin Netanyahu as leader of the right-wing Likud Party. Mr. Shamir continued to serve as a Likud legislator. On Tuesday, Mr. Shamir told Israel army radio that he did not plan to compete in the Likud primaries. "I am finished, I will not run for parliament any more," Mr. Shamir said.

Ben Alawi due tomorrow

By Tareq Ayoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ben Alia Abdulla is due here on Thursday in a two-day "private visit" where he is expected to meet with Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, the Omani ambassador to Jordan, Mohammad Ben Sultan, said Tuesday.

Mr. Ben Alawi, who will arrive from Damascus, is expected to hold talks with Jordanian officials on bilateral relations as well as the peace and regional developments, Mr. Ben Sultan said.

The chief of the Omani diplomacy, who is in a regional tour that took him to Cairo and Damascus, held talks with Egyptian President

Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

Oman, a member of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), is spearheading a normalization process with Israel aimed at ending 47 years of economic boycott of the Jewish state.

The two countries are expected to open commercial offices in Muscat and Tel Aviv to initiate trade relations between the two countries. On Monday, Mr. Alawi, who is scheduled to leave Jordan on Friday, announced in the Egyptian capital that he expected that Israel and Oman would conclude a deal on opening the commercial offices in January.

Last year, the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visited the Omani capital and met with Sultan

Court rejects case against Mahfouz

CAIRO (AP) — A criminal court threw out a case filed by an Islamic lawyer who alleged Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz and two newspaper editors had ridiculed God and Islam, newspapers reported Tuesday.

Judge Mustafa Abu Taleb of the Criminal Court of Mansura in the Nile Delta issued the ruling Monday on grounds that lawyer Mohammad Abdul Rahman had no legal standing in the case.

The ruling was seen as a victory for secular intellectuals, who have increasingly faced law suits filed by Islamic lawyers. The lawyers use the courts to attack various books.

Mr. Abdul Rahman filed the case last January against

Attempt to hijack Saudi airliner foiled

DUBAI (R) — An Ethiopian passenger tried to storm the cockpit of a Saudi Arabian airliner on a flight from Asmara to Addis Ababa Tuesday but was overpowered by the crew, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said.

One of the crew members was injured as the man who rushed towards the cockpit, armed with a paper knife and a broken glass bottle, SPA said, quoting an official of the state-owned Saudi airlines.

According to foreign experts, Israel has about 200 nuclear bombs, as well as long-range nuclear missiles capable of delivering atomic warheads. The Israeli government has never acknowledged having a nuclear weapons programme.

The report did not make clear if the passenger had tried to hijack the plane and the official made no mention

of the motive of the passenger, identified as Nabil Mohammad Amin.

The incident took place about 7.47 a.m. (0447 GMT), 10 minutes after the plane took off from Eritrean capital Asmara to Addis Ababa, capital of neighbouring Ethiopia.

The plane, carrying 185 passengers, returned to Asm